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No. 1919

Annual Report on the Social and Economic  
Progress of the People of the

GOLD COAST, 1938-39

*(For Reports for 1936-37 and 1937-38 see Nos. 1836 and  
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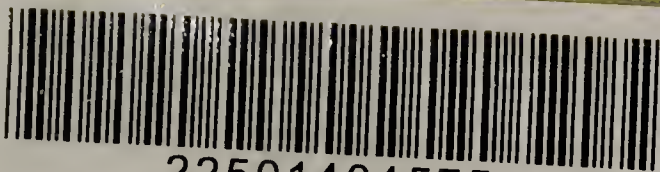
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## INTRODUCTION.

When contrasted with its nearest British neighbour, Nigeria, and the adjacent French West African territories, the Gold Coast is certainly overshadowed in size. Its total area is, however, approximately 92,000 square miles and its wealth of natural resources places it in the first rank of the Empire's tropical possessions. It has a relatively small and very unevenly distributed population of slightly more than three and three-quarter millions. There are centres of comparatively dense population along the seaboard, in the mining areas and in the cocoa-producing districts, but only about one-quarter of a million people, or less than one in ten of the population, live in the urban areas. The Gold Coast is essentially a country of agriculturists, of people living on the land.

The history of the Gold Coast, during the first eighty years after the Imperial Government first assumed control of the British settlements in the territory in 1821, was one of many vicissitudes and much turmoil, the climax being reached in the Ashanti war of 1900. The close of the nineteenth century marked the end of an epoch in the country's history and the beginning of a new era which has been rendered conspicuous by the establishment of settled administration, by peaceful development and by steady progress towards a general condition of unprecedented, and indeed undreamt of, prosperity. An index of this prosperity is the growth of the Colony's revenue and of the value of its trade to a level more than ten times higher than that of forty years ago. The main factors which have contributed to this increased wealth and prosperity are the introduction of the cocoa crop and, more recently, the steady expansion and development of the gold mining industry. Two other factors of less, but of by no means negligible, importance have been the discovery and exploitation of valuable deposits of manganese ore and diamonds.

The natural results of this increasing prosperity have been the introduction of railways, the construction of a network of roads to open up the large productive areas lying inland and remote from the seaboard, the provision of educational facilities on an ever-increasing scale, and the steady expansion of medical and other social services tending towards the betterment of the health and general welfare of the people.

The Gold Coast may be aptly described as a mixture of mediaevalism and modernity, the past forty years having been marked by a rapidity and diversity of progress such as it would normally take a nation or a people several centuries to achieve. The people of the country are naturally progressive



in character and are willing and anxious to absorb all the elements of European culture with which they are brought in contact. While taking a natural pride in the traditions of his race the Gold Coast African is looking forward, not backward, and he has a laudable confidence in his own future. His strong sense of humour, worldly wisdom, adaptability, and ability to work for desired ends provide him with valuable equipment for dealing with any tasks with which the future may confront him.

## CHAPTER I.

### GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

#### Geography.

The roughly oblong block of country called "the Gold Coast" comprises the Gold Coast Colony, Ashanti, the Northern Territories and Togoland under British Mandate.

It is situated on the Gulf of Guinea between  $3^{\circ} 15'$  W. longitude and  $1^{\circ} 12'$  E. longitude, and is bounded on the west by the French colony of the Ivory Coast, on the east by Togoland under French Mandate, on the north by the Ivory Coast and on the south by the Atlantic Ocean.

The area of the Colony is 23,937 square miles, of Ashanti 24,379, of the Northern Territories 30,486 and of Togoland under British Mandate 13,041—a total of 91,843 square miles. The forest country, from which the people of the Gold Coast to a large extent draw their prosperity, amounts to about 21,500 square miles. From the area of approximately a million acres in the forest country which is under cocoa bearing, nearly 300,000 tons of cocoa are produced yearly, representing an average of approximately 69 per cent of the total value of domestic exports during the past twenty-two years.

#### Climate.

The climate of the Gold Coast, although hot and damp, is cooler than that of most tropical countries situated within similar latitudes. The mean shade maximum temperature recorded during 1938 for the towns of Accra, Takoradi (coastal), Kumasi and Tamale (inland) was  $84\cdot1$ ,  $85\cdot3$ ,  $88\cdot9$ , and  $94\cdot3$  degrees Fahrenheit, and the mean relative humidity was  $76\cdot2$ ,  $80\cdot2$ ,  $84\cdot3$  and  $61\cdot6$  respectively. The rainfall varies with the configuration of the country, being greatest in the thick forest belts. The amount of rain which fell in 1938 at the stations mentioned above was  $23\cdot57$  inches,  $45\cdot91$  inches,  $61\cdot76$  inches and  $43\cdot24$  inches, respectively.

During the months of January and February, the harmattan, a dry north-easterly wind from the Sahara, blows strongly, carrying with it particles of fine dust and rendering the atmosphere extremely dry. Characteristic features of this period are a sudden lowering of humidity and extremes of temperature.

The country falls into four distinct climatic zones: the northern zone, with rainfall and humidity moderate and a severe dry season; the forest zone, in which the rainfall and humidity are high and the intensity of the harmattan is reduced by the presence of forest; the coastal strip, with low rainfall but fairly constant high humidity; lastly, the wet south-west corner, a small area right on the coast with a very high rainfall (up to 100 inches) and a constant high humidity.



The conditions of high rainfall and humidity which obtain in the forest belt are suitable for cocoa cultivation. The maintenance of these conditions by the preservation of the forest is, therefore, of the highest importance for the continued prosperity of the Gold Coast.

### History.

The known history of the people of the Gold Coast begins, for all practical purposes, with the discovery of the country by the Portuguese, who first landed on the coast towards the end of the fifteenth century. The distribution of the various language groups and the absence of traces of large earlier settlements tend, however, to substantiate the traditional belief that the present population is the result of a series of waves of immigration which took place in comparatively recent historical times.

Of these immigrants the most numerous were the Akans, who came from the north or north-west in search of sanctuary to the forests of the Gold Coast, some sections of them eventually reaching the sea.

The Akans appear to have come in three waves. The first wave, consisting of the Guans and kindred peoples, came down the Volta valley, and probably as early as 1200 were in occupation of a crescent of land stretching from Bole through Salaga, Krachi, Anum and Accra, as far west as Winneba. The second wave, the ancestors of the Fantes, probably came down the Ofin and the Pra, arriving on the coast about 1300 and spreading eastward through Cape Coast until it came in contact with the Guan tribes. The third wave, the ancestors of the Twi peoples, came straight down between the earlier settlers, filling up Ashanti and Akim. The Akwamus, who were the spear-head of the advance, came in contact with the coast people about 1600.

Behind the Akans came the Moshi, who, partly by conquest and partly by peaceful penetration, obtained supremacy over the inhabitants of the northern part of the Gold Coast and established the Mamprussi and Dagomba kingdoms under the rule of sons or other relatives of their leaders. These kingdoms were established about the year 1500; and a century later the Gonja kingdom was formed by a fusion of Moshi elements with the earlier Akan settlers in the Bole and Salaga area. There was constant rivalry between the Gonja and Dagomba kingdoms until in the eighteenth century they both succumbed to the growing power of Ashanti.

About 1500 the south-east corner of the country was peopled by an infiltration of Ga, Adangbe, and Ewe tribes from the east and north-east. The present territorial situation was reached when in 1733 the Akwamus, the most southerly of the Twi-speaking tribes, were attacked by a confederation of the Gas, Akims and



others, and driven from the land of Akim to their present home east of the Volta ; while a year or two later a section of the victorious Akims assumed the rule over the Guans in Akwapim.

*The Gold Coast Colony.*

There is some evidence that the Gold Coast was visited by French navigators towards the end of the fourteenth century ; but the first Europeans to establish a permanent connection with the country were the Portuguese, who, arriving in 1482, built the castle at Elmina eleven years later in order to protect their trading interests. They found on the coast a people of hunters and fishermen, primitive in habits and development, yet understanding the working of iron and fully conscious of the value of gold. No native State of any size had yet been established but numerous petty chiefdoms were in existence among the coast people, and inland the strong kingdom of Adansi was beginning to develop.

Until the close of the sixteenth century the Portuguese maintained their trading monopoly. Feeble efforts on the part of other European Powers, including England, were made to obtain a footing on the coast, but the Portuguese were never seriously challenged until the advent of the Dutch in 1595.

At first the Portuguese were interested in obtaining gold, ivory and spices, but with the opening up of the New World there came a demand for cheap labour for the plantations. So began the transatlantic slave trade which, until its decline and abolition in the nineteenth century, shaped the history of the Gold Coast.

The main results of the slave trade were twofold. First, in order to feed the slaves awaiting shipment and their captors, the Portuguese were obliged to introduce food plants and to teach an improved method of agriculture to a people hitherto largely dependent for food on the natural resources of the forest and sea. Secondly, the lucrative nature of the trade attracted the attention of other European nations besides the Portuguese to the possibilities of the Gold Coast.

The Dutch, appearing on the coast in 1595, rapidly undermined the domination of the Portuguese. In 1637 they captured Elmina and in 1642 the Portuguese abandoned all their possessions in the Gold Coast to the new-comers. Other European Powers, including England, followed and, fighting amongst themselves, scrambled for a footing on the coast. By 1750, however, the year in which the African Company of Merchants was formed and subsidised by the Imperial Government to the extent of £13,000 per annum, all had withdrawn except the Dutch with their headquarters at Elmina, the Danes with their headquarters at Christiansborg and the English with their headquarters at Cape Coast Castle.

In 1821 the Imperial Government first assumed the control of the British settlements in the Gold Coast, and the African Company of Merchants was dissolved, its possessions being vested in the Crown and placed under the Government of Sierra Leone. Seven years later, however, the Imperial Government, after considering complete withdrawal from the coast, entrusted the government of the settlements in the Gold Coast to a Committee of London Merchants. In 1843, however, the 1821 arrangement was restored in consequence of suspected slave trading, which had been prohibited by the British Government in 1807.

The year 1850 saw the separation of the British forts and settlements of the Gold Coast from Sierra Leone, the cession of the Danish possessions to Britain and the creation by Letters Patent of Executive and Legislative Councils, but in 1866 government from Sierra Leone was resumed.

In 1872 the Dutch withdrew from the Gold Coast, handing over their possessions to the British. Two years later, after Sir Garnet Wolseley's successful Ashanti campaign, came the final separation from Sierra Leone, measures being taken on the conclusion of peace for placing the government of the Gold Coast on a footing of efficiency and security. A new Charter was issued dated the 24th July, 1874, separating Her Majesty's settlements on the Gold Coast and Lagos from the Government of Sierra Leone and constituting them into one colony under the style of the Gold Coast Colony under a Governor-in-Chief with an Administrator at Lagos.

In 1886 all the settlements and territories belonging to Her Majesty on the Gold Coast were, by Letters Patent dated the 13th January, formed into a distinct colony, Lagos being separated therefrom. This territory, however, did not include all the areas under British protection and had no specified boundaries. To regularise the position, therefore, these protected areas were annexed to His Majesty's dominions and declared to be part and parcel of His Majesty's Gold Coast Colony by Order-in-Council of the 26th September, 1901. The boundaries of the Colony thus constituted were defined by Order-in-Council dated the 22nd October, 1906, and have since remained unchanged.

#### *Ashanti.*

Meanwhile evolution had been proceeding among the immigrants whom the Portuguese found living in the country at the end of the fifteenth century. Assimilating what aborigines they found, they had been developing settled habits and had begun entering into the permanent occupation of roughly defined tracts of country. In the coastal areas of the Gold Coast development took place by way of small autonomous units under European protection, but in the interior it took the form of tribal confederations for offensive and defensive purposes.



Of such organizations by far the biggest and most highly developed was that of the Ashantis which with its capital at Kumasi had begun to establish its ascendancy towards the close of the seventeenth century. The eighteenth century witnessed the consolidation of the military power of Ashanti and the growth of its magnificence.

The growing military power of Ashanti aspired towards the domination of the whole Gold Coast and consequently the British policy of protecting the coast tribes who dwelt under their aegis was the cause of continuous friction with the Ashantis and of the various wars which took place during the nineteenth century until the final pacification of the country in 1900.

In January, 1824, Sir Charles MacCarthy, the Governor of Sierra Leone, led an expedition against the Ashantis in an endeavour to forestall an invasion. He was defeated and killed at Insamankow. Two years later, however, the British, assisted by Akim, Akwamu, Denkyira and Accra levies, signally defeated and routed the Ashantis at Dodowa.

Hostilities recommenced in 1873, and in 1874 Sir Garnet Wolseley led an expedition against Kumasi which he captured and destroyed. After this war the military confederation of the Ashantis fell into anarchy. Several important divisions renounced their allegiance and civil war ensued. Trade was at a standstill; the indemnity imposed on Ashanti after the war of 1874 could not be paid; and on various occasions the British Government was asked by one party or another to intervene in Ashanti affairs. Conditions became intolerable and the Government decided to assume control of the country. In 1896 a further expedition was sent to Kumasi and Prempeh, the King of Ashanti, and other notables were arrested and deported. A Resident was appointed to administer the kingdom and a fort was constructed and garrisoned at Kumasi.

The Ashantis, however, were not yet subjugated and in 1900 a demand by the Governor for the surrender of their Golden Stool, which every Ashanti believes to be the abiding place of the spirit of the Ashanti nation, brought them up in arms with the result that the Governor was besieged in the fort. Accompanied by a strong escort, however, he was able to make his way through to the coast and a military expedition was sent to Kumasi which relieved the fort and broke up further resistance.

In 1901 Ashanti was annexed to the Crown and since that date it has become settled and prosperous. Ex-King Prempeh was allowed to return to Ashanti in 1924 and two years later to assume the position of Kumasihene or Head Chief of the Kumasi Division. He died in 1932.



Investigation subsequently regarding the wishes of the people of Ashanti revealed that the great majority were in favour of the restoration of the Ashanti Confederacy, the political organisation which had existed before the rising of 1900. On the 31st of January, 1935, the restoration of the Confederacy was proclaimed and official recognition was given to Osei Agyeman Prempeh II and his successors as Asantehene, the ancient title of the head of the Ashanti nation.

*The Northern Territories.*

That portion of the Gold Coast which lies to the north of Ashanti came under British influence in 1897 after the conclusion of treaties with the Chiefs concerned and after international settlement with France and Germany. The area was proclaimed a Protectorate in 1901.

*Togoland under British Mandate.*

In 1922 a portion of the former German colony of Togoland was placed under British Mandate. The territory is now administered under the Togoland under British Mandate Order-in-Council, 1923.

## CHAPTER II. GOVERNMENT.

The Gold Coast is administered as a British Colony on behalf of the Crown by the Governor assisted by an Executive Council constituted by Letters Patent and Royal Instructions bearing date the 23rd May, 1925, and the 23rd November, 1934. The Executive Council consists of the Colonial Secretary, the Chief Commissioner of Ashanti, the Chief Commissioner of the Northern Territories, the Attorney-General, the Financial Secretary, the Director of Medical Services, and the Secretary for Native Affairs.

For administrative purposes the Gold Coast comprises three areas, viz. the Colony, Ashanti and the Northern Territories. The Colony is divided into three provinces, viz. Eastern, Central and Western, the first including the southern section of Togoland under British Mandate. Each province is in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner assisted by District and Assistant District Commissioners. Ashanti and the Northern Territories (which include the northern section of Togoland under British Mandate) are also divided into districts, each in charge of a District Commissioner who works under a Chief Commissioner.

The Governor is empowered to enact ordinances for the Colony with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council constituted by the Gold Coast Colony (Legislative Council) Order-in-Council, 1925, consisting of the Governor as President, fifteen official members (including all members of the Executive Council except the Chief Commissioners of Ashanti and of the Northern Territories), and fourteen unofficial members. The Legislative Council contains an elective element in that provision is made in the Royal Order constituting it for the election of six Head Chiefs as provincial members by the three Provincial Councils of the Eastern (three), Central (two), and the Western Province (one) of the Colony; of three municipal members, one each by those whose names appear on the voters' lists of the towns of Accra, Cape Coast and Sekondi; and of a mercantile member and a mining member by the Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Mines respectively, the remaining three members being nominated by the Governor.

The Governor is also enabled, under the respective instruments providing for their administration, to enact laws for Ashanti, the Northern Territories and Togoland under British Mandate.

Joint ordinances for the Colony, Ashanti, the Northern Territories and Togoland under British Mandate are made by the Governor under the provisions of the Gold Coast Ordinances Order-in-Council, 1934, but, in so far as their provisions relate to the Colony, this is done with the advice and consent of the aforesaid Legislative Council.



*System of Government.*

The system of government may be described as a mixture of direct and indirect rule with a bias towards the latter. So far as the natives are concerned the administration is mainly in the hands of the Chiefs who are invariably assisted in their respective spheres of authority by councils of elders who are, generally speaking, representatives of various sections of the community. The Chief and his councillors constitute a tribunal for his state or division. These tribunals which form part of the judicial system of the Gold Coast exercise a limited jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters. Their judgments are subject to appeal to District Commissioners sitting as Magistrates, except in land cases in which appeals lie to the Courts of Provincial Commissioners. From these courts further appeals lie respectively to the Supreme Court and the West African Court of Appeal. Appeals lie further to the Privy Council.

Apart from tribunals there is also a State Council for each State in the Colony which exercises jurisdiction in executive and constitutional issues. Decisions of such Councils are subject to appeal to the Governor whose decision is final.

There is also established for each province a Provincial Council composed of all the Head Chiefs, which elects Chiefs to be members of the Legislative Council. All important Bills which are being introduced into the Legislative Council are referred to them for their views and comments. The Provincial Council also is empowered to hold enquiries of a certain nature, and a Judicial Committee consisting of five members of the Provincial Council is the appropriate body to which such matters are referred. Facilities are also granted to these Councils to hold a Joint Session at least once a year.

In Ashanti the old Confederacy was restored in January, 1935, and the Ashanti Confederacy Council was established with the Asantehene as president. The old allegiances have been restored as far as possible, and the important Chiefs and their councils recognised as native authorities. The activities of these authorities which are constantly under the supervision of the administrative officers, indicate that the Chiefs and people of Ashanti are keen to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded them for steady progress towards a measure of self-government.

*Municipal Administration.*

There is established in each of the towns of Accra, Cape Coast and Sekondi a town council, consisting of five official and five unofficial members, to which is entrusted the administration of a limited local government. Each council is invested with powers and duties under certain ordinances which enable it to carry out the lighting and conservancy of the town and to take



other steps for the preservation of public health. Its revenue is derived principally from house and land rates and various licence fees, supplemented as requisite by annual grants from Government. The president of the council has a vote and a casting vote.

Sanitary committees have been established in a number of smaller towns, but their functions are purely advisory with no power of taxation. These committees, however, have done much to improve the local sanitation and they continue to carry on much useful work.

In Kumasi, the administrative headquarters and the ancient capital of Ashanti, the municipal administration is in the hands of the Kumasi Public Health Board which was formed in 1925. The revenue of the Board is chiefly derived from rates, licences and fees similar to those charged by the various town councils in the Colony.

A Sanitary Board, established in 1935, exercises statutory control over the sanitary affairs of the town of Obuasi in Ashanti and is empowered to take all measures necessary for the proper conservancy, lighting and public health of the town. The revenue of the Board consists chiefly of fees and charges for services rendered, also of fines and penalties for breaches of sanitary laws.

#### *Native Administration.*

As already stated the system of government is a mixture of direct and indirect rule with a bias towards the latter. The administration is mainly in the hands of the Chiefs, who owe their position to heredity according to family groups, to election by the representatives of their people, and to recognition by the central Government as represented by the Governor. In the past the main obstacle to the progress of native administration, particularly in the Colony, has been the fact that, apart from the fees and fines collected by the tribunals, many of the Chiefs were without any sources of regular income to maintain their individual positions or to carry out any useful social services.

Considerable progress has, however, been made during the past year, especially in the Eastern and Western Provinces of the Colony. In the former, two States in particular have contributed to this advance by voluntarily establishing Native Administration Treasuries which have been worked in accordance with properly framed estimates of revenue and expenditure. In one case provision has been made, among other things, for the building of a State school. In the other, the recently formed Treasury has functioned so well that at the end of the year 1938 a balance of nearly £2,000 remained in the bank after all commitments, including the payment of regular annual emoluments to all Stool servants, had been met. Much of this surplus has been earmarked for

expenditure on the development of social services and on capital works of public utility. This achievement is the more remarkable since the State concerned is situated in an area practically devoid of natural resources such as workable mineral deposits and rich cocoa farms which abound in other parts of the Colony. It is an outstanding example of the value of earnest endeavour and genuine co-operation. In another State, where there had been protracted dissension and disputes, treasuries were compulsorily established in two towns as a result of legislation specially enacted for that purpose. These treasuries have functioned most successfully and there is no doubt that the material improvements which have been effected in the two towns concerned have stimulated in neighbouring communities a desire to see their own finances placed on a sound basis. In the Western Province of the Colony the Native Administrations continue to derive substantial pecuniary benefits from the steadily increasing development of the mining industry. The people of the States concerned have begun to take a keen interest in the State Treasury system, which they welcome as a means of ensuring that the considerable sums of money which are received annually in the form of rents and royalties from mining companies, and also from other sources, are properly brought to account and applied to the public advantage. Indeed it may be said that throughout the Colony there has been of late a perceptible change in the attitude of the people towards the sustained and earnest propaganda which has been carried out by Government in favour of the establishment of State Treasuries. The realisation appears to be growing that the Treasury system is not a device by which Government aims at usurping the control of the people's money but, on the contrary, is intended to afford the people themselves an opportunity of controlling and developing their own financial resources. With this end in view legislation has recently been enacted to provide for the establishment and management of Native Administration Treasuries throughout the Colony. In order to fit the machinery for the working of these treasuries into the existing framework of native administration, provision has been made for the State Councils to take a part in the establishment of treasuries which are required for subordinate areas within a State. As, however, a State Council is not a suitable body for the convenient and efficient management of a public treasury, since it is usually too large and its members often reside in different towns or villages, provision has been made for the appointment of Finance Boards to discharge the duties of treasury management. These Boards will, it is hoped, normally include one or more persons who are not members of the native authority concerned.

In Ashanti the Native Administrations are carrying out a policy of consolidation. Under the careful guidance of the Asantehene, Ashanti is once again beginning to assume some of its old importance as a complete unit. While no direct taxation has



yet been introduced on a general scale, individual Divisions do from time to time impose a levy in order to pay off a debt which has become troublesome to the Stool. The Native Treasuries are now properly controlled and although the Chiefs and Councillors still retain a portion of the fees and fines of the Courts, as they have no other income, it is hoped that in time this arrangement will be replaced by a salary provided in the local Native Treasury Estimates. Unless, however, the Division has a regular source of revenue the money will be difficult to find, and the institution of a general levy appears to be the only solution.

Steady and gratifying progress continues to be made in local government in the Northern Territories, where a system of direct taxation came into operation barely three years ago. Native treasuries have been established throughout the Protectorate and the assessment and collection of the tax is carried out almost entirely by the native authorities, the administrative officers acting in a purely advisory capacity. This system of taxation was not introduced hurriedly or without due consideration and preparation. Propaganda extended over a number of years and careful enquiries into native customary law were made before any decision was reached with regard to the new proposals. Careful study was given to every detail by officers who had spent many years in the Northern Territories and who had gained the confidence of the Chiefs and the people. The result was that the introduction of a direct tax proceeded smoothly and without opposition. Its collection has been carried out promptly and without incident and the estimate of revenue from this source has been fully realised. A number of ambitious schemes of development has been undertaken by the various native authorities. Conspicuous among them are the Mamprusi and Dagomba Native Administrations, who have agreed to share between them the expenditure on the salary of a European foreman who was engaged at their request to expedite work on the water supplies to which each administration has voted £1,800. The total revenue of the native treasuries has risen during the past five years from about £860 to approximately £80,000. Every native authority now maintains its own school and dispensary, and proper attention is paid to sanitation in the rural areas. The Chiefs of the Protectorate continue to display great keenness in all matters affecting the welfare of their people. Their sense of responsibility is highly developed and they are realising more and more, as time goes on, the necessity for having a stable form of revenue from direct taxation for the provision of local services. A conference was held at Tamale in December, 1938, which was attended by all the Divisional Chiefs and most of the Sub-divisional Chiefs. It is hoped that this meeting will become an annual event and will develop into what may be described as a Protectorate Council of Chiefs,

### CHAPTER III. POPULATION.

The uneven distribution of the population of the Gold Coast, as shown in Table I below, is influenced by a number of factors, the chief of which are economic, agricultural and health conditions.

The most densely populated areas are the towns of Accra, Koforidua, Sekondi and Takoradi in the Colony, the Kumasi district of Ashanti, and the north-eastern corner of the Northern Territories. Considerable areas carrying a fairly large population are also to be found in the Keta, Ada, Winneba and Saltpond districts of the Colony. At the census of 1931 the population was as follows :—

				TABLE I.		
				<i>Resident Africans.</i>	<i>Resident Non-Africans.</i>	<i>Maritime.</i>
Colony	...	...	...	1,571,362*	2,408*	172 (non-African 104).
Ashanti	...	...	...	578,078	624	—
Northern Territories	...	...	...	717,275	107	—
Togoland	...	...	...	293,671	43	—
				3,160,386*	3,182*	172

At mid-year 1938, the estimated resident African population of the Gold Coast and its dependencies (including Togoland under British Mandate) was 3,786,659, an increase of 86,392 or 2·3 per centum over the estimated total (3,700,267) for the preceding year.

Table II gives the estimated populations of the more important towns at mid-year 1938.

<i>Town.</i>				<i>Estimated population at mid-year 1938.</i>
Accra	...	...	...	74,937
Kumasi	...	...	...	44,627
Sekondi	...	...	...	22,356
Cape Coast	...	...	...	19,689
Tamale	...	...	...	19,495
Koforidua	...	...	...	14,274
Winneba	...	...	...	13,787
Nsawam	...	...	...	10,868
Saltpond	...	...	...	6,388
Ho	...	...	...	3,599

\*Including a maritime population of 172 of whom 104 were non-African.



### Registration of Births and Deaths.

The compulsory registration of births and deaths is applied to 35 registration areas comprising a total population of 340,600 or about nine per cent of the entire population of the Gold Coast.

#### *Births.*

TABLE III.

		1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Males	...	4,794	4,794	4,966	5,591	5,655	5,601
Females	...	4,820	4,843	5,140	5,631	5,579	5,664
Total	...	9,614	9,637	10,106	11,222	11,234	11,265

The natural increase of births over deaths was 3,735. The weighted average birth-rate was 33·1 per 1,000 persons living compared with 33·7 for 1937.

#### *Deaths.*

TABLE IV.

		1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Males	...	3,981	4,025	4,827	4,972	5,257	4,789
Females	...	2,283	2,525	3,004	3,030	3,174	2,741
Total	...	6,264	6,550	7,831	8,002	8,431	7,530

The weighted average death-rate per 1,000 persons living was 22·1 compared with 25·3 for 1937.

### Maternal and Infantile Mortality.

The infantile mortality rate for 1938 was 102 per 1,000 live-births, compared with a rate of 117 for 1937. The maternal mortality rate was 14·0 per 1,000 total births and 14·6 per 1,000 live births compared with 15·8 and 16·6 respectively for 1937.

As in all comparatively primitive countries the above rates must be taken with a certain amount of reservation. The rates quoted above are all crude rates and correction is at present not possible. The factors of immigration and emigration, which cannot yet be assessed at their true value, also influence to a great extent the death-rates returned.

The pronounced decline in the general death-rate and the infantile mortality-rate call for comment. It is considered that the cause of this decline was threefold, namely meteorological, economic and epidemiological.

The harmattan during 1937-38 was very mild, and was very late in 1938-39. The year 1938, therefore, almost entirely escaped the effects of this cold, dry and dusty wind, which normally results in a high incidence of respiratory diseases, often with a very high mortality.

Although 1938 cannot perhaps be considered to have been a prosperous year, yet it was a stable one. There was no hold-up in the marketing of the cocoa crop such as occurred in 1937, and as a result employment did not suffer.

There was no serious outbreak of any infectious disease during the year under review.

## CHAPTER IV.

## HEALTH.

The Medical Department is divided into three main branches, curative, preventive and research. There is also a small section whose attention is devoted entirely to work in connection with human trypanosomiasis, otherwise known as "sleeping sickness." The activities of this section include not only the actual treatment of sufferers from this disease but also clinical and entomological research.

There are thirty-eight hospitals in the Gold Coast. Some are housed in buildings which are out of date and difficult to administer effectively, others have been planned on up-to-date lines. Of the latter, the Gold Coast Hospital at Accra is adequately equipped for medical and surgical work and possesses an up-to-date X-ray department where a great deal of good radio-therapeutic work is done. There is also a venereal diseases section and a dental clinic. Close to this hospital is the Medical Research Institute, for which the rich clinical material available in the hospital provides a wide and valuable field of investigation. Also adjacent is a well-equipped maternity hospital, to which is attached a training centre for midwives who on the completion of their training provide much needed maternity services in the less advanced areas.

Yaws continues to account for the greatest number of cases of persons attending and suffering from any single disease. It can, however, be stated definitely that this disease is not on the increase: in fact the hospital figures for the year under review show a decrease of 8,000 cases. The total of cases treated at hospitals during the year was 75,519. Many other cases are treated by Native Administration dressers who travel from village to village giving courses of treatment.

Tuberculosis heads the list of killing diseases and constitutes a serious problem to which close attention is being paid.

The total number of cases of all diseases treated in the hospitals of the Gold Coast fell from 330,092 in 1937 to 323,990 in 1938. This is accounted for partly by the effects of the cocoa "hold-up" and the consequent irregularity of the usual transport services, and partly by the fact that 1938 was a remarkably healthy year as the figures for respiratory and digestive diseases clearly show.

The death-rate for pneumonia was 640 per 100 000 in 1937, as against 470 per 100,000 in 1938. The rate for the various types of dysentery was 639 per 100,000 in 1937, compared with 476 per 100,000 in 1938.

The total number of out-patients treated in twenty-five dispensaries in 1938 was 60,999 as compared with 52,078 treated in twenty-one dispensaries during 1937.



During the year, 26,390 infants and 15,064 expectant mothers were treated at the various welfare centres ; and there were 65,833 attendances of children at the district weighing centres for weighing and advice.

Amongst the general population, the maternal mortality was 14·0 (15·8 ; 16·2)\* per 1,000 total births and 14·6 (16·6 ; 17·0)\* per 1,000 live births : the infant mortality rate (crude rate) was 102 (117 ; 108)\* per 1,000 : the death-rate (crude weighted average) was 22·1 (25·3 ; 24·5)\*. The death-rate for the year was 2·4 below the quinquennial median rate and 1·18 below the quinquennial mean rate.

The immigrant labour problem referred to in previous reports is engaging the attention of Government. The recently instituted Labour Department will provide much more accurate information in future years.

The people of this country are gradually being taught to realise the value of the curative and preventive aspects of modern medicine. Health propaganda in schools and through the medium of the *Teachers' Journal* and by means of wireless broadcasts has for its insistent theme the fact that ill-health is not a necessary evil but can be largely prevented by the people themselves by regular attention to hygiene and sanitation.

The value of the infant weighing centres run by voluntary helpers of the Red Cross movement is being progressively more appreciated.

### European Community.

The estimated European population resident in 1938 was 4,975. This compares with 4,791 in 1937.

There has been a decrease in the death-rate of European officials from 11·1 per thousand in 1937 to 4·3 per thousand in 1938.

The invaliding-rate for European officials has risen this year to 103 per 1,000, the highest ever recorded and an increase over last year of 27 per thousand. The causes of this increase are engaging attention, and it is evident that psychasthenia is becoming a factor of very great importance.

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\*The figures in brackets are those for 1937 and 1936 respectively.

The following table shows the death and invaliding figures for European non-officials.

1938.	Number.	Deaths.	Invalided.	Death-rate per 1,000.	Invaliding rate per 1,000.
Merchants { Males { Females	1,288 712	12 3	28 10	9·3 4·2	21·7 14·0
Mining Companies { Males { Females	1,586 140	9 —	39 1	5·7 —	24·6 7·1
Missionaries { Males { Females	193 125	— 1	8 5	— 8	41·4 40·0

### African Community.

The general health of the African community in 1938 was good and was in marked contrast to the position in 1937. The practical absence of the harmattan resulted in a considerable diminution in deaths from respiratory causes.

The birth-rate fell slightly from 33·7 per thousand in 1937 to 33·1 per thousand in 1938. This is 0·3 below the quinquennial mean and 1·4 below the quinquennial median rates.

The death-rate fell from 25·3 per thousand in 1937 to 22·1 per thousand in 1938, i.e. a decrease of 3·2 per thousand.

The healthiness of the year is further shown in the fall in the infant mortality rate from 117 per thousand in 1937 to 102 per thousand in 1938.

The invaliding-rate for African officials fell from 0·5 per cent to 0·4 per cent and the death-rate from 0·7 to 0·3 per cent.

Total deaths among African officials during the year numbered 14 as against 26 in 1937.

### Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Thirty-two African and six European Government hospitals provide for the needs of the Colony, Ashanti and the Northern Territories. The European hospitals contain a total of 69 beds, while there are 1,049 beds and 123 cots in the African hospitals.

Work has continued during the year on the new hospital for Cape Coast and it is hoped that this will be ready for occupation during 1939. This hospital is of the most up-to-date type and will be fully equipped for all types of medical and surgical work and will have in addition a large maternity wing. It should prove of the greatest benefit to the people of that area.



The new Infectious Diseases Block at the Gold Coast Hospital, Accra, is nearing completion and it is hoped that it will be in use in 1939. This block, consisting of spacious general and single wards, with broad shady verandahs, will supply a long-felt want not only as an isolation hospital for infectious diseases, but as a place where adequate treatment of tuberculous cases may be given. No non-Government hospitals have been erected during the year; a small local hospital exists at Achimota and the Basel Mission maintains a hospital at Agogo in Ashanti.

The following table shows the comparative totals of all patients treated in Government hospitals:—

TABLE I.

	1937.	1938.	Increase or decrease.
In-patients ... ..	28,237	27,919	—318
Out-patients ... ..	301,855	296,071	—5,784

The following tables show the work done in 1938 in the larger urban centres:—

TABLE II.

(b) Gold Coast Hospital, Accra, 219 beds and 24 cots.

	1937.	1938.	Increase or decrease.
Out-patients ... ..	16,614	17,903	+1,289
In-patients ... ..	3,073	3,989	+916
Daily average (in-patients) ... ..	277	276	—1
Major operations ... ..	557	801	+244
Minor operations ... ..	2,273	2,273	—

TABLE III.

(c) Kumasi African Hospital, 158 beds and 6 cots.

	1937.	1938.	Increase or decrease.
Out-patients ... ..	11,852	9,525	—2,327
In-patients ... ..	3,371	3,068	—303
Daily average (in-patients) ... ..	146	138	—8
Major operations ... ..	136	130	—6
Minor operations ... ..	540	515	—25



TABLE IV.

(d) Accra Maternity Hospital, 45 beds and 26 cots.

					1937.	1938.	Increase or decrease.
In-patients	...	...	...	...	1,376	1,270	—106
Deliveries	...	...	...	...	642	583	—59
Attendances at antenatal and post-natal clinics	...	...	...	...	15,956	15,980	+24

*Missions.*

Although the Basel Mission at Agogo reports a decrease in attendances as compared with last year, much excellent work is still being done. The number of operations is again very high, exceeding that of last year.

From figures alone it is difficult to assess the contribution of the missions to the Colony's medical services, but their work among the women and children is of considerable extent and undoubted value.

The Roman Catholic Mission, which has for many years maintained medical stations at Jirapa, Kpandu, Djodje and Eikwe, recently opened another at Akim Swedru in the Central Province.

The welfare centre at Amedzope is supported by the Bremen Mission.

*Dispensaries.*

The various dispensaries staffed by African officers continue to operate with conspicuous success.

There are now nine dispensaries in the Colony, three in Ashanti, and sixteen in the Northern Territories—an increase over last year of one in the Colony, one in Ashanti and five in the Northern Territories. The detailed list is given below :—

TABLE V.

						Town in which dispensary is situated.
COLONY :						
Eastern Province	...	...	...	...	...	Dabala Nkawkaw Abomoso.
Central Province	...	...	...	...	...	Fanti-Yankumasi Elmina.
Western Province	...	...	...	...	...	Anwawso Enchi Essiama Wioso.
ASHANTI	...	...	...	...	...	Wenchi Kintampo Atebubu.
NORTHERN TERRITORIES	...	...	...	...	...	Bole Gambaga Garu Tumu Walewale Zuarungu Kete-Krachi Sandema Hian Karaga Zabzugu Fian Ketiu Prang Yeji Grube.

### Prevalent Diseases.

(Figures refer only to hospital patients).

Yaws, as mentioned previously, is still the most prevalent disease. The great difficulty encountered is to ensure that patients attend regularly until a full course of injections has been given. Too often they fail to return for treatment once the florid stage of the disease has passed.

The incidence of malaria again shows a slight increase. The following table shows the relation which this disease has borne to the total number of cases treated in the hospitals during the past three years :—

1936	...	...	20·3 per cent.
1937	...	...	22·5 per cent.
1938	...	...	23·1 per cent.



Deaths have, however, fallen from 7·2 per cent (7·1 in 1936) to 6·9 per cent.

There has been a reversal of the position noted last year in regard to mortality figures. Tuberculosis, which then accounted for 22·4 per cent of deaths from infectious diseases, this year accounted for 30·9 per cent while in the case of pneumonia there is a comparable decrease from 29·9 per cent to 22·6 per cent.

The total deaths in hospitals for the year numbered 1,945, or 6·9 per cent of all in-patients, compared with 2,247 or 7·9 per cent in 1937.

### Human Trypanosomiasis.

An intensive campaign against human trypanosomiasis, or "sleeping sickness", was continued in the Northern Territories during the year. This included a survey of affected areas and the treatment of patients in camps, dispensaries and hospitals. Extensive and thorough clearings of the class of vegetation which harbours the tsetse-fly were made and maintained. The value of these preventive measures has been definitely proved, and it is now evident that control over this disease is practicable.

#### *Surveys and treatment.*

An area of about 400 square miles was completely examined by means of village to village surveys, and mass-treatment was administered to sufferers from this disease over an area of about 380 square miles. The following table shows the numbers of persons examined and treated in the field, respectively :—

			<i>Persons examined.</i>	<i>Persons treated in the field.</i>
Mamprussi	...	...	16,678	333
Kusasi	...	...	9,655	—
Lawra-Tumu	...	...	12,963	98
Wa district	...	...	1,050	95
Total	...	...	<u>40,346</u>	<u>526</u>

The following table shows the rates of infection in the various areas where reliable statistics are available :—

*Infection rates.*

Area.	Highest village rate per cent of population.	Lowest village rate per cent of population.	Average per cent of population.
Burifoo ... ..	3	—	under 3
Nadawli ... ..	16	3	9
Border area between Lawra and Tumu ...	12	3	6
Southern Mamprussi ...	12	—	1
Kusasi ... ..	2	—	1

*Treatment centres.*

Large treatment centres exist at Lawra and Wa, and also at Nakpanduri, Gambaga and Walewale in the Mamprussi area.

*Incidence of the disease.*

The reliability of the hospital returns has been proved by their agreement with the results of the surveys. Records show that the incidence of the disease is decreasing in Mamprussi. The decrease appears to be due mainly to the clearings of vegetation adjacent to streams and water courses: this is borne out by the fact that among the females, who do not go far afield and whose domestic duties, such as fetching water and doing the family washing, restrict them to close and daily contact with these cleared areas, the decrease in infection is more marked than it is amongst the males whose activities are not confined to the clearings. This interesting fact is especially noticeable in the Bimoba area where the clearings have been well done and satisfactorily maintained, and is substantiated by the following figures relating to the treatment of trypanosomiasis cases in that area during the past five years :—

Year.	Number of males treated.	Number of females treated.	Excess of cases in Males over those in Females.	
			Number.	Percentage.
1934 ... ..	442	428	14	2
1935 ... ..	587	542	45	4
1936 ... ..	388	326	62	9
1937 ... ..	341	271	70	11
1938 ... ..	294	201	93	18



## CHAPTER V.

## HOUSING.

Owing to the cocoa "hold-up" of rather more than a year ago and the low price of cocoa during the year under review, Africans have not had a great deal of money to spend on housing. Consequently the expansion of building operations, which was so noticeable in most parts of the country during the year 1937-38, has not been satisfactorily maintained during the past year. In most districts the number of buildings erected has fallen by about fifty per cent. Nevertheless a number of good class African dwellings have been built, progress in this respect being especially marked in the more important centres such as the suburban areas of Accra, particularly Adabraka and Christiansborg, and certain of the other large towns. The extensive slum clearance schemes in some areas are partly responsible for much new building in towns. The African builder is not slow to copy any noticeably good and modern features in European dwellings, and there is a marked and steady improvement in the style and workmanship of good class African buildings in the more populous centres. This may be attributed, in some degree, to the superior training received by artisans employed both by Government and by private concerns and to the consequent improvement in the standard of workmanship generally.

The African regards a well-constructed house as a sound investment for his savings. It is customary for him to take a long time, sometimes several years, over the building of his house. When times are good and he has money to spend, the building will go forward; when money is scarce, as it has been recently, further construction is left over until more prosperous times. Materials are gradually collected on the site, as funds become available, and it is not unusual in the more prosperous areas to see stacks of sandcrete blocks growing steadily in preparation for the commencement, or the continuance, of building operations.

In the mining areas, which are less affected by the condition of the cocoa market, good progress has been made. In certain of the larger towns, also, the building of family houses is still proceeding. It is a common practice for members of a family in a rural area to join together in the erection of a good house in one of the towns. In this way they always have a place where they can live when they go to town, and any part of the house not required for their own use is let out as lodgings, thus providing a steady income for the investor. Further, the boys of the family attending school in the town have somewhere to stay.

Most progress has been made in the Northern Territories. The people of the Protectorate are progressive and energetic, and



they are anxious to improve their living conditions. Moreover, they were not directly affected by the cocoa "hold-up". A simple standard type of compound has been evolved and the improvements recently effected in some of the larger towns, such as Bawku, Salaga and Savelugu, have been remarkable. Although conditions are primitive and more difficult than in the south, the villages are clean and comfortable, and the houses are suited to the climate and the particular needs of the people.

In Ashanti also, there is a standard type of compound, though in the larger towns the standard is sometimes varied by examples on European models. The town planning and slum clearance schemes in Kumasi are making continued progress, and, where formerly there were merely collections of insanitary hutments, there are now streets of well-built houses and shops. The same applies to Obuasi where there has been a good deal of new construction during the course of the year. A variety of materials is used for building purposes. In the larger towns of the Colony and Ashanti it is usual to employ sandcrete blocks, which provide a permanent structure and are economical in the long run. This type of building is not confined to the towns and is popular wherever the people can afford the higher cost of better materials. In the rural areas the walls of houses are in many cases constructed of sun-dried bricks or "swish". Both these materials are made from clay which has been thoroughly "puddled". Another and less satisfactory form of construction in the rural areas is known as "wattle and daub": this consists of a framework of sticks covered with puddled earth, and the main objection to it is that it is very vulnerable to attack by termites or "white ants" and is not vermin-proof.

In the larger towns corrugated iron and asbestos-cement tiles are generally used for roofing the better class buildings. In the villages the usual roofing material is corrugated iron, whilst in the remote rural areas and in the Northern Territories roofs are usually thatched. In the Protectorate the type of dwelling varies according to tribal custom. In some areas the round house type of room with a high-pitched grass roof is in vogue, in others the flat mud roof predominates. Mud floors are used generally, but in the Northern Territories special attention is often devoted to them, a substance known as "dawadawa" being used. This is made by boiling the berries of a local tree and mixing the glutinous liquid with dry cowdung. The walls and floors are then smeared with the mixture to render them water-proof.

Building operations in the municipalities are controlled by regulations which are substantially the same in each municipality, as they are based on the building regulations promulgated by Government for use in the case of all towns to which the provisions of the Towns Ordinance apply. Outside the municipal and urban



areas building activity is not controlled by regulation, except in the mining health areas where, as described later in this chapter, special attention is being paid to the housing problem.

In the municipalities of Accra, Cape Coast, Sekondi and Kumasi, and in the mining health areas, a special staff of building inspectors is provided for the control of construction and for the enforcement of the building regulations. In the smaller towns this control is undertaken by officers of the Public Works Department, and in rural areas, where no such officers are resident or available, control is exercised by the staff of the Health Branch of the Medical Department in co-operation with the local District Commissioner.

The difficult problem of housing in the mining areas of the Colony is receiving close and energetic attention. The mining companies have formulated admirable new housing schemes, but these are to some extent hampered by the existence of haphazard and badly constructed villages which in the past have sprung up with great rapidity outside but closely adjacent to the concession areas. The huts in these villages were built to no particular plan and no regard was had to lay-out or to method of construction. They were erected by petty financiers and let out to labourers working on the mines and to small storekeepers and others who depend for a livelihood on the labour employed by the mining companies. The inhabitants of these villages are mostly strangers to the districts and, as they owe no allegiance to the local Chiefs, it was difficult to exercise adequate control over them. Control over these mushroom villages has now been established and large numbers of dangerous, insanitary and unauthorised buildings have been demolished. This is especially noticeable in the Prestea and Marlu health areas. A common mining health area has been declared for the environs of Tarkwa, which is the centre of the deep mining industry. This health area, which is about sixteen miles long and six miles wide, comprises a very populous district in which five large mining concerns are operating. Government now has under consideration a proposal to bring this area, excluding, of course, the five "mining areas", under the control of a single statutory Township Board.

In the older and larger towns there are numerous congested areas in which unsatisfactory housing conditions exist. The question of slum clearance is receiving attention and it is hoped, in due course, to formulate schemes for opening out these areas and establishing the surplus inhabitants on well-designed lay-outs elsewhere. Continued progress is being made in the development of town lay-outs, but the rate of progress is necessarily rather slow and depends largely on the funds which can be made available.

Many of the smaller fishing villages compare unfavourably with villages of a similar size in Ashanti and the Northern Territories, but the houses are old and the fishermen are conservative and rebuilding is a difficult matter.



## CHAPTER VI.

### NATURAL RESOURCES.

The area of the Gold Coast is 91,843 square miles. This may be divided into closed and open (savannah) forest zones of 30,012 and 61,831 square miles respectively.

The closed forest zone, which covers the greater portion of the Colony and Ashanti, is estimated to contain 21,561 square miles of forest land, i.e. land either unfarmed, or having lain fallow for twenty years or more and in process of reverting to forest. Of this forest land, a total area of 5,659 square miles has been set aside as forest reserves for the purpose of protecting crops and water supplies.

The open forest zone, characterized by a ground cover of grasses, includes the whole of the Northern Territories and extends into northern Ashanti and the east and south-east portions of the Colony. Within this zone it is estimated that 42,785 square miles are forested. Forest reservation within this zone is in its early stages and so far only 173 square miles have been set aside for the production of small timber and fuelwood. Reservation in this zone will, *inter alia*, take into consideration grazing requirements and anti-erosion measures.

From the figures given above, it will be seen that 64,346 square miles, or 70·06 per cent of the total area of the Gold Coast, are actually forest land. The area under cultivation and development is, therefore, 27,497 square miles, or 29·94 of the whole extent of the territory.

Although no accurate survey of the areas devoted to cultivation has ever been attempted, it is estimated that considerably more than one million acres, or 1,563 square miles, with 400 or more trees to the acre, are devoted to the growth of cocoa, which is the Gold Coast's chief export crop, and that the labour expended on the production of this crop represents one-sixth of the labour potentiality of the country. Along the littoral there are some seven to eight thousand acres, or twelve square miles, under coconuts. The bulk of this area lies in the Western Province and in the extreme easterly portion of the Colony. Banana plantations, which support the growing export industry in this crop, cover approximately 2,400 acres, or  $3\frac{3}{4}$  square miles; and about 2,000 acres, or three square miles, in the Central Province are devoted to the cultivation of limes. There is, however, no demand for increased production of the latter fruit. No approximation can be attempted for the areas covered by such indigenous products as oil palms and kola, nor can the area devoted to the cultivation of foodstuffs for domestic consumption be estimated with any degree of accuracy.

On the 31st December, 1938, the total area of extant concessions for mining and other purposes in the Colony and Ashanti amounted to 5,063 square miles. On the same date in the Northern Territories the total area covered by exclusive prospecting licences then extant was 50·2 square miles, and the total area which was being mined under mining leases was four square miles. Exclusive prospecting licences in respect of 3,774·1 square miles of land in the Protectorate either expired or were surrendered during the year ending on the 31st December, 1938.

The natural resources of the Gold Coast are considered below under four heads—Agriculture, Live-stock, Forestry and Mining. Of these sources of income, agriculture and mining (gold, manganese and diamonds) are by far the most important. Animal husbandry is not yet advanced enough to provide for the meat requirements of the Colony and there is a large import of live cattle for slaughter and of tinned meat products.

Agricultural production for export includes kola nuts, palm kernels, palm oil, coffee, copra and bananas, but the production of these is negligible when compared with the huge export of cocoa. There is no local manufacture or consumption of cocoa; it is all exported as cocoa beans. The Gold Coast is still largely a one-crop country and the economic history of the country brings out clearly the strength and weakness of this dependence on cocoa. On the one hand the crop is very valuable and brings in a large money income. It has the additional advantage—a very important one in the tropics—of removing little fertility from the soil in proportion to its cash value. It conserves the soil still further because it is a tree crop and the soil is never disturbed by cultivation. There is little or no erosion damage to the soil in the cocoa areas. On the other hand a serious slump in the price of cocoa is apt to throw the economic life of the country out of gear for some considerable time. Such fluctuations in price are little understood by a comparatively illiterate people, and considerable progress will be necessary in the economic education of the Gold Coast farmers before they fully appreciate how closely commodity prices are linked with world economic conditions. The Gold Coast people do not show any great enthusiasm for a more diversified agriculture, although signs are not lacking that they are beginning to appreciate the benefits that might result. A greater development of internal trade such as would be secured by the development of the live-stock industry in suitable areas would be of considerable assistance to the economy of the country. Efforts are being made to encourage the production of other cash crops—bananas, citrus species, and tobacco—both in the cocoa and in the non-cocoa areas. Details of the progress made with the development of these crops during the period under review are given later in this chapter.

The organisation of the preparation and marketing of cocoa amongst widely dispersed peasant producers presents great



difficulties. Normally most of the cocoa is sold in the villages to "brokers" who may be "free lance" or working for a commercial firm. Though some quality discrimination is practised there is little or no price premium for good quality cocoa. This is the great obstacle to improvement in methods of preparation.

The cocoa co-operative societies as yet embrace but a small percentage of the total number of producers. They produce good quality cocoa which is correctly weighed at the co-operative store, eliminating the juggling with weights and scales which sometimes provides the broker with a good deal of his profit. The cocoa may be sold locally by tender or shipped to the home market for direct sale. In the latter case a group of societies combines in a central union. At the end of March, 1939, there were 371 societies with a membership of 9,399 and a paid-up share capital of £28,299. Societies have also been formed for the marketing of other crops. These are included in the following table which relates to the year ending on the 31st March, 1939 :—

Type of Society.	Number.	Membership.	Paid-up Share Capital.		
			£	s.	d.
Cocoa producers ... ..	371	9,399	28,298	16	0
Copra producers ... ..	11	541	632	0	0
Fruit (banana) producers ...	20	348	1,022	18	8
Citrus producers ... ..	4	464	765	6	0
Coffee producers ... ..	1	72	110	1	0
Total ... ..	407	10,824	30,829	1	8

In the Gold Coast the land belongs to the people; the Government owns no land except what has been acquired from time to time for public purposes. Agricultural production is almost entirely in the hands of peasant producers.

"Ownership" of land has a somewhat different connotation from ownership in the European sense of the term. Ownership may be vested in the tribe, family, or individual and is regulated by customs pertaining to each of the four classes of land, tribal land, "stool" land, family land and individually-owned land. ("Stool" is equivalent to "throne" but is used like the term "Crown". "Stool land" is therefore land under the direct control of the head of the native State—the occupant of the Stool). In the more primitive areas land is recognised as having a "spirit" which requires placating to deliver of its goodness. This is done through an intermediary ("tindana") between the spirit of the land and the people. It is frequently heard that "chiefs command people, not land" and a chief approaches the land through the "tindana."



The areas of land farmed by the peasant farmers vary widely. Food farms in cultivation at any one time are limited in size by the capabilities of the family labour supply. On cocoa farms there is considerable employment of paid labour during the busy season. A cash wage may be paid or, more usually, one-third of the produce is labour's share.

Though in general the cocoa farm is small there are in the "good" cocoa areas a number of farmers owning a hundred acres or more of bearing cocoa. These men are rich by peasant standards in any country. By membership of the cocoa co-operative societies the rich farmer is enabled to help his poorer neighbours at a profit to himself, making use of money normally "banked" by being buried in the earth. Since the farmers have developed confidence in the co-operative movement surprisingly large sums have been deposited from time to time. Nevertheless crop mortgaging and the alienation of farms through indebtedness still constitute a heavy drag on production.

The live-stock industry is treated separately from agriculture because as yet cattle keeping is divorced from farming. Cattle cannot be kept in the tsetse-fly-ridden areas. A start has been made in the Northern Territories with the introduction of cattle-drawn implements and the making of manure from stock kept on the farm. Progress along these lines with a people not naturally "cattle conscious" must of necessity be slow. There is a great demand for meat in the Gold Coast and the efforts being made to improve the size of cattle for slaughter both by providing improved bulls and inducing the cattle owners to refrain from slaughtering very young stock will, when taken in conjunction with the control of animal diseases now well organised by the Animal Health Department, in time greatly ease the meat scarcity.

The exploitation of the forest resources of the Colony and Ashanti is controlled by the Concessions Ordinance. If necessary, reafforestation may be required of the holders of concessions.

Apart from the value of forests in erosion control, now universally recognised, forestry in the Gold Coast is very intimately related to agriculture because the cocoa tree will thrive only in a forest environment. In other words, it requires the conditions of heavy shade, still air and constant high humidity of both air and soil which obtain in the "lower storey" of the humid tropical forests of South America which is the true home of cocoa. Cocoa is an exotic on the Gold Coast and its absolute dependence on forest and shade is not fully realised by the farmers. The native system of farming—"shifting cultivation"—puts great pressure on the forest areas because the cultivator who is leaving an old "run-out" farm naturally wants to obtain rich virgin forest land for clearing. This means progressive and wasteful destruction of the forest.



It is, therefore, the preservation of forest and forest "reserves" so as to ensure adequate protection of the cocoa industry which has first call on the Forestry Department, though naturally the utilisation of forest timber, of which there are many attractive and useful varieties in the Gold Coast forests, is also receiving attention.

The exploitation of mineral resources is controlled by the granting of mining concessions and is now mainly in the hands of large European concerns. Little gold is now obtainable by the primitive native methods of working which were so productive when the Gold Coast first began to be so named. Native workings, however, still continue to win an appreciable amount of diamonds. The production of manganese is entirely in the hands of one company.

### Agriculture.

#### *Cocoa.*

Total production cannot be directly ascertained as the farmers are illiterate and keep no records. There is, however, no local consumption and the export figures give an accurate measure of the amount marketed. The crop is distributed over the season in close relation to the distribution of the rainfall. In the southern cocoa areas the main rainy season occurs in May-June and the smaller rains in September-October. The main and mid cocoa crops begin some five months later in each case, namely in October and April. Further north, in Ashanti, the peaks of the main and small rainy seasons are close together and the mid crop of cocoa is insignificant. Averages, calculated from the whole cocoa areas, show that about 3 per cent of the total crop ripens in August, 17 per cent in September, 27 per cent in October, 24 per cent in November and 15 per cent in December, leaving 7 per cent in January and February to complete the main crop. This amounts to 93 per cent of the total. The mid crop, amounting to 7 per cent of the annual total, is spread over the five months April to August, the bulk of it being obtained in May, June and July.

The average time elapsing between ripening and harvesting is about 17 days, and between harvesting and marketing about 25 days. The farmer's stocks are built up in the main season, rising to about 20 per cent of the annual crop total in November-December and being at a negligible level from March to August. The main marketing period is thus concentrated in a few months, and the farmer, who uses no banking system, is faced with a long period without income between crops. This has given rise to an unsatisfactory state in which borrowing at usurious rates of interest or selling crop forward at prices as low as half the cash value has become very prevalent.

Between marketing and export there is an average lag of 74 days, exports being more evenly distributed over the year. Merchants' stocks rise to a maximum in January, averaging then about 37 per cent of the total crop, and fall to a minimum about mid September before the new crops begin to come in, when stocks may be as low as 10,000 tons.

Using the October-September crop year, the production in long tons during the past eight seasons has been as follows :—

	<i>Main Crop.</i>	<i>Mid Crop.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1931-32 ...	192,000	20,000	212,000
1932-33 ...	239,000	17,000	256,000
1933-34 ...	202,000	18,000	220,000
1934-35 ...	265,000	11,000	276,000
1935-36 ...	265,000	20,000	285,000
1936-37 ...	282,000	18,000	300,000
1937-38 ...	222,000	10,000	232,000
1938-39 ...	280,000	18,000*	298,000*

It is estimated that the 280,000 tons of main crop in 1938-39 were distributed as follows :—

Ashanti ...	...	95,000 tons.
Western Province	...	12,000 „
Central Province...	...	42,000 „
Eastern Province	...	113,000 „
Trans-Volta ...	...	18,000 „

During the financial year 1938-39 the course of marketing and export was upset by the accumulation of farmers' stocks from the previous year, as on 1st April, 1938, instead of farmers having no stocks, they were carrying some 186,000 tons. The marketing hold-up ceased on the 28th April, 1938, as the result of a truce between the farmers and the buyers which was negotiated by the Commission of Enquiry on its arrival from England in March of that year, and practically the whole of the accumulated stocks was marketed during the next four months. Owing to these abnormal circumstances, the tonnage of cocoa marketed during the financial year was a record.

1937-38 main crop	...	186,000 tons	marketed.
1938 mid „	...	10,000 „	„
1938-39 main „	...	280,000 „	„
Total	...	<u>476,000</u>	„

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\* Estimate.



The exports also show the same phenomenon, and are summarized in the table below :—

EXPORTS DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR.

		<i>Maritime.</i>	<i>Eastern Frontier.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1933-34	... ..	258,256	4,265	262,521
1934-35	... ..	228,616	9,095	237,711
1935-36	... ..	277,698	7,776	285,474
1936-37	... ..	289,084	5,890	294,974
1937-38	... ..	135,906	1,100	137,006
1938-39	... ..	376,234	9,856	386,090

The farmers' income varies directly with the world's market price of cocoa which has fluctuated between £70 and £20 per ton during the last 12 years. Standard marketing charges such as transport, handling, etc., do not vary in like proportion, the range being estimated at approximately £5 during the same period. As a result, when prices are low any increase in the United Kingdom price of cocoa has a marked effect on local prices and most of the increase is reflected in the latter, e.g. an increase in the home price from £20 to £25 usually increases local prices from £10 to nearly £15.

The total cash received by the agricultural community up-country is estimated roughly below for the crop years shown.

			<i>Total production. Tons.</i>	<i>Estimate of cash received by the agricultural community. £</i>
1926-27	... ..		238,000	11,350,000
1927-28	... ..		207,000	10,020,000
1928-29	... ..		242,000	8,570,000
1929-30	... ..		232,000	7,420,000
1930-31	... ..		223,000	3,970,000
1931-32	... ..		212,000	3,650,000
1932-33	... ..		256,000	4,240,000
1933-34	... ..		220,000	2,680,000
1934-35	... ..		276,000	3,960,000
1935-36	... ..		285,000	4,710,000
1936-37	... ..		300,000	10,980,000
1937-38	... ..		232,000	2,900,000
1938-39 (main crop only)			280,000	4,200,000

These violent fluctuations can only have a retarding effect on the development of a sound rural economy. The country's prosperity, however, no longer depends on cocoa to the same extent as in the past ; in 1928, for example, the value of cocoa exports was about 82 per cent of the total domestic exports, whereas in 1938 the value was only about 41 per cent. There has, on the other hand, been a marked increase in the value of mineral exports, particularly gold and diamonds.

In the case of the small peasant farmers, who produce less than one ton of cocoa each and who form by far the largest section of the cocoa-producing population, the variation in price is a matter of serious importance since their income is severely affected. The same applies to caretakers of farms who are employed by the larger farmers on a one-third crop-share contract, whereas labourers employed on a contract to harvest and prepare the crop are less affected by the fluctuation in price. These labourers receive about 1s., 1s. 6d., or 2s., per load of 60 lbs for cutlassing, harvesting and preparing the dry cocoa when the price is under 10s., between 10s. and £1, and over £1, respectively, and they also obtain foodstuffs from the farmers.

### *Citrus*

Most of the well-known citrus species—limes, lemons, oranges, tangerines, grape-fruit, etc.—have now been grown in various parts of the Gold Coast and have long been known to thrive particularly well on the coastal belt. The internal trade in citrus fruits, principally oranges, is considerable.

About 2,000 acres of land around the villages of Abakrampa and Asebu, near the port of Cape Coast, are devoted to the cultivation of limes. This area supplies the needs of two factories owned by Messrs. L. Rose and Company who produce lime juice, lime oil, and other lime products. 538,879 gallons of unsweetened lime and lemon juice worth £26,959 were exported to the United Kingdom in 1938. In the previous year the figures were 276,954 gallons and £10,762, the increase during 1938 being due to the additional plant provided in the Company's factories.

The possibilities of establishing a local grape-fruit industry are being investigated by the Department of Agriculture. Different varieties of grape-fruit have been budded (as "scions") on different "stocks". There are two main agricultural problems, that of getting a "seedless" grape-fruit, and that of finding a method of preventing loss of fruit from the attacks of a moth which pierces the skin and causes the fruit to spoil.

A partial solution of the latter problem is to can the fruit, and at Asuansi Investigational Station an experimental canning plant has been very successful in turning out a canned product of good flavour, appearance and keeping quality, which finds a ready sale locally.

Though fully aware of the present experimental nature of work on grape-fruit, farmers close to the station have been keenly interested and have been given a certain amount of suitable planting material which has been planted under the close supervision of the Department of Agriculture. These "grape-fruit farmers" have organised themselves in three co-operative societies and now have their own nursery in which budded plants are grown.



*Tobacco.*

Tobacco has been grown in small amounts in the Gold Coast from very early times. Until recently little attention has been given to it by farmers. At the present time the Department of Agriculture is conducting experiments with the crop, mainly with a view to securing the adoption by farmers of varieties which will allow of the development of a considerable internal trade. Three varieties suited to the production of pipe tobacco and to the manufacture of cheroots and cigarettes are being tried out in three separate areas, so as to prevent the mixing of seed. One or two small factories are turning out cheroots and cigarettes which find a ready sale. No considerable expansion of the tobacco industry is likely in the near future, however.

*Kola.*

Exports of kola nuts by sea continue to decline and there has also been a decline in the movement overland. Factors militating against maritime exports are the high cost of rail and ocean transit and the lower value obtainable for kola as production increases in Nigeria, whither most of the nuts were formerly exported.

The following table shows the exports of nuts in tons for the last five financial years:—

		1938-39	1937-38	1936-37	1935-36	1934-35
Exports <i>via</i> ports ...	tons	304	293	293	204	114
Exports overland ...	tons	3,305	3,997	3,785	3,870	2,785
Total exports ...	tons	3,609	4,290	4,078	4,074	2,899

*Oil Palm Products.*

The oil palm is indigenous to the forests of the Gold Coast, palm oil (pericarp oil) and palm-kernel oil being used for culinary purposes by the people. Production for export depends on price, and fluctuates considerably from year to year. It will be noted from the following table that, while palm oil export tonnage fell, the fall in value of exports was in greater proportion. A decline also took place in the tonnage and value of palm-kernels as compared with the previous year.

Exports in recent financial years have been as follows:—

Maritime and overland.		1938-39	1937-38	1936-37	1935-36	1934-35
Palm oil ...	Tons	490	570	890	556	83
	Value	£6,847	£11,399	£7,439	£8,880	£885
Palm Kernel ...	Tons	4,633	6,866	11,056	7,539	3,916
	Value	£32,929	£63,485	£115,519	£55,104	£22,750

One oil mill continues to work in the Western Province, much of its oil-output being disposed of locally for culinary purposes.

### *Bananas.*

Government continued a series of shipments of bananas during the year under review. Though the native growers prefer the Cavendish type they are being encouraged to grow the hardier and better keeping type, the Gros Michel, and by the end of 1939 the change will be complete. From 1st May, 1938, until 6th February, 1939, the number of bunches shipped amounted to 70,368, the increase over last year being partly accounted for by the opening up of new areas in the Central Province. There is evidence from plantations under European supervision that the proportion of marketable bunches obtainable from old farms is much higher than the native cultivator is getting at the moment. It is hoped that more attention will be paid by the cultivators to their farms as they grow to realise the necessity for it. Progress in this direction has been stimulated by the appointment of a banana officer who will devote his whole time to the various aspects of the industry, more particularly the improvement of the standard of cultivation in farms and the prevention of disease.

### *Copra.*

Exports in recent financial years have been as follows :—

Maritime and overland				1938-39	1937-38	1936-37	1935-36	1934-35
Tons	...	...	...	1,048	1,396	2,039	2,025	1,035
Value	...	...	...	£9,156	£20,858	£23,252	£17,087	£6,836

There is a considerable production of coconut oil in the Keta district, the coconut growers there changing from copra production to coconut oil production when export values of the former product fall below a certain level. The bulk of the oil is consumed in the country.

### *Cotton.*

There were no maritime exports during the year, but exports of seed-cotton over the eastern frontier amounted to 2·0 tons. Little interest is taken in the crop in the Northern Territories. A small amount is grown for local use.

### *Rubber.*

The exports of rubber have increased during the last five years, as may be seen from the table below :—

			1938-39.	1937-38.	1936-37.	1935-36.	1934-35.
Exports	...	lb.	1,265,845	1,098,414	957,310	774,144	364,243



The increases are not due to new plantings coming into bearing, but to the fact that prices continue high enough to make the tapping of the old trees profitable. The export has not reached the figure achieved in 1925-26 when prices were considerably higher, and it would rapidly decline if prices fell much below their present level.

### *Food-crops.*

The main food-crops vary in different parts of the country. Staple foods in the dry parts of the Northern Territories include early and late millet and guinea corn, groundnuts, beans and oil seeds. Further south yams are of first importance, and millet, maize, guinea corn, beans, groundnuts and rice are also grown. Shea butter from the shea tree is generally used in cooking throughout the Northern Territories but the trees grow wild and no cultivation is given to them.

In the forest country, yams, cocoyams, plantains, sweet potatoes, cassava, maize, beans and groundnuts are grown. Palm oil and fruits are much used in food, but animal foods are rare in the normal diet.

The coastal zone is a relatively dry area where the staple foods are cassava, maize, plantains, palm oil, rice and coconuts. Small amounts of pork, mutton and beef are eaten, but the main source of animal protein is fish, there being a large trade in dried fish which is conveyed to towns and villages some distance from the coast.

In the forest and coastal zones various vegetables are grown fairly extensively. Okros, tomatoes, chillies and garden eggs are all on sale in the local markets.

In the south-west corner of the Colony there is an area of heavy rainfall, and rice is grown for local consumption in addition to the usual range of foodstuffs.

Cattle in the Gold Coast are for the most part unimproved and in the tsetse-fly belt (forest country) cannot be kept. Small stock—sheep, goats, pigs—are commonly found in the villages together with poultry. They are not as extensively used for food as could be desired.

### *Production by Non-Africans.*

There have been few plantation ventures in the Gold Coast and they have in general not been successful enough to encourage further development.

### *Native Industries and Pursuits.*

It will be convenient to include in this chapter an account of more important industries and pursuits in which the native

population is engaged. As already stated, the majority of the inhabitants of the Gold Coast are farmers dependent for food on the produce of their farms. Sufficient food is grown for the family and the occasional stranger, but in the vicinity of large towns and mining areas farming on a larger scale is carried out for the sale of produce to the non-agricultural population.

The area put under food-crops depends to a considerable extent on changes in the purchasing power of the people resulting from fluctuations in the price of the chief export crop—cocoa—and of other exports. In the recent economic depression more land was devoted to the growing of corn, cassava, and yams in the cocoa belt, and during the 1937–38 cocoa “hold-up,” the people and their leaders were forced to consider more seriously than before the need for a more diversified agriculture and particularly the development of food farming.

The low prices of 1938–39 intensified this development and recently the Ashanti Confederacy Council has passed a bye-law forbidding further clearing of forest land for the purpose of planting cocoa. This came into force on the 1st January, 1939.

Around the larger towns there is a steadily increasing industry in the cultivation of European vegetables for local consumption. Crops are seasonal and pay well during the producing period but at times there are long periods of drought when crops cannot be produced in quantity.

There is a ready sale in all towns for locally grown fruit and in general fair supplies are obtainable throughout the year, pine-apples, avocado pears, bananas, oranges, grape-fruit, limes and pawpaws being the most common. Kola nuts, which are much in demand among the people of the Northern Territories, are harvested in large quantities from the forest areas in Ashanti, but their production in the Colony is being gradually displaced by that of cocoa. Formerly kola nuts were headloaded or carried by donkeys to the principal markets in the Northern Territories but now they are transported by motor lorries from Kumasi and other collecting centres in Ashanti to Bawku, Lawra and other frontier towns where they are disposed of to traders from the neighbouring French territories and Northern Nigeria. Journeys which formerly took weeks or even months can now be completed in two or three days. As a result the nuts, which quickly deteriorate, arrive at the markets in the north in a much better condition and fetch a higher price.

The individual who comes into Ashanti from the north to buy kola nuts usually brings fowls, sheep, goats, shea butter, native blankets or other goods which he can offer in exchange for food and kola. The wholesale price of nuts has varied during the year from 3d. to 6d. per 100 in Kumasi, depending upon size and season. White nuts, being scarce, realise a much better price than red.



In the principal kola areas in Ashanti it is in most cases the owner himself who picks and prepares the nuts for sale but occasionally he may let his trees to another who will do this work for one-half of the crop.

Palm oil is to be seen in most markets and is retailed at about 6d. per pint bottle. The heavy import duties imposed on spirits, and the restrictions placed on their sale within the Gold Coast, have contributed to a considerable increase in the making of palm-wine. Palm-wine production unfortunately entails destruction of the palms and thus an important source of wealth is being dissipated. The palm-wine producer will frequently have as many as 30 palms under treatment at the same time and will make approximately 5s. a day by selling wholesale the wine produced, which is later sold retail at about 2d. a pint, although the price varies considerably according to the locality.

Fresh coconuts are sold in most villages along the coastal areas and for some distance inland. The grower sells the nuts at about four or five for 3d. and the retailer gets 1d. each for them. The matured nuts are used for making coconut oil for culinary purposes.

Rice is grown on a small scale wherever suitable conditions obtain. In the Esiam district farmers brought the paddy to the Government rice mill where it was hulled and sold on their behalf to wholesale distributors and employers of labour. The entire production of the mill was consumed in the country but, owing to the competition of cheap imported rice and the decreasing support given by the rice farmers, this mill was closed.

Groundnut cultivation is fairly general in the Gold Coast, small patches of the crop being grown for local consumption all over the country. In Togoland, Nzima, Keta, and northern Ashanti, the crop is grown more extensively to supply the large markets of Accra, Sekondi and Kumasi. A limited quantity of groundnut oil is prepared locally but there is no export either of oil or of nuts.

In the coastal zone the cultivation is mainly done by women, but in northern Ashanti outside the forest belt, men, especially settlers from the Northern Territories, grow the crop. In the latter area the farmer sells the unshelled nuts to women at from £5 16s. to £6 10s. per ton. The women decorticate the nuts, convey them to Kumasi and sell them to petty dealers in measures of about 1½ lb. at prices ranging from £15 to £19 per ton. The petty dealer retails the nuts in cigarette tin measures at £25 to £30 per ton.

Next in importance to agriculture in the life of the people come hunting and fishing. In spite of the progress in the opening up of the country and of the increase in areas under cultivation, game is found in many districts, and in the undeveloped areas

every village has its quota of professional hunters who gain their livelihood from the chase. Hunters are usually armed with flint-lock guns and in addition employ ingenious kinds of traps. The meat obtained is sold or bartered locally at high prices.

A considerable section of the community living on the coastal areas and on the banks of the large rivers is employed in fishing. Some of the catch is consumed immediately or is sold fresh in the local markets, and the remainder is cured by exposure to the sun or by smoking in an oven. An appreciable industry exists in the sale of the cured product, which is in great demand and which, peddled by intinerant vendors, reaches the remotest parts of the country. *Niger* perch are brought from the north and a regular transport service exists between Mopti and Kumasi to meet the demands of this trade.

An industry also exists in certain parts of the forest country in the collection and sale of snails which are carefully preserved and may be caught only during specified periods of the year. There are heavy penalties for taking them at any other time. Whole villages emigrate to the forest for the entire season. Some of the catch is consumed locally but most of it is smoked and sold on skewers in the large markets. So prepared, they fetch about  $\frac{3}{4}$ d. each. A family may earn as much as £10 in this way in a good season.

A flourishing trade in live-stock exists between the Northern Territories and the meat markets in Ashanti and the Colony. As the supply from the Protectorate is still insufficient to meet the demand, much stock is obtained from Nigeria and French territory. Regular consignments of cattle reach Accra by sea from the Cameroons. Steady progress is, however, being made in stock-raising in the Northern Territories and it is hoped that the necessity for importing live-stock will eventually disappear.

Pottery is made in many parts of the country, the work being done mostly by the women and it is of interest to record that the potter's wheel is unknown. The type of pot usually depends on the kind of clay available ; for example, at Teshi, in the Accra district, cooking pans are made while at Nasia in the Northern Territories, water pots are produced. In addition to domestic utensils much ornamental pottery is also manufactured. At the Prince of Wales College, Achimota, efforts are being made to develop kiln-fired pottery, brick and tile-making and also to introduce the use of the potter's wheel.

Another village industry is the weaving and dyeing of cloth from local cotton and vegetable dyes. The well-known Ashanti cloths are, however, now usually woven from imported yarn. In some parts of Ashanti and the Western Province of the Colony cloth is made by beating the inner bark of a tree *Antiaris africana* just as bark cloth is made in Uganda.



At Bawku in the Northern Territories rope and string are made from hibiscus bark and sisal fibre. A rope-maker earns about 5s. a week.

In addition to the above handicrafts, almost every village has its blacksmith, sawyer and carpenter whose services are always in demand at good wages. Canoe-making, the manufacture of wooden stools and ornamental woodcarving are also carried on in many localities.

A decreasing trade exists in the extraction of salt from the lagoons around Ada for sale in the Northern Territories. The salt is conveyed up the Volta by canoes which then return loaded with shea-butter.

In the urban areas the population earns its livelihood in trade, for which the African has a particular aptitude, and by the exercise of various professions. Government service provides employment for many, and in addition there are in practice numbers of African doctors, lawyers, surveyors and other professional men. The number of skilled craftsmen is increasing, and reliable tailors, boot-makers, carpenters, masons, goldsmiths and motor mechanics are becoming common.

Road transport gives employment to many. The lorry owner can always rely on his family and his friends for shelter and sustenance, and his clothing needs can be reduced to a minute sum. He does not necessarily work every day; he is almost entirely free from overhead charges, and, except for the payment of the instalments for his lorries and of his running charges, he has little need for money. Consequently road transport is comparatively cheap.

### **Live-stock.**

There are nearly 200,000 cattle in the Gold Coast, of which 160,000 are in the Northern Territories, nearly 40,000 in the plains of the Eastern Province of the Colony, and a few scattered herds elsewhere. The best breed is found in the Northern Territories and numbers about 100,000. These cattle are a mixture of "Hamitic Longhorn" and *Brachyceros* (dwarf type) with additional Zebu blood. In nearly all animals Zebu points are found, though the hump is absent. The Zebu, though susceptible to trypanosomiasis and other local diseases, is much more resistant to rinderpest and is a good traveller, a most important point in West Africa.

Though changing conformation for the worse, Zebu blood causes increased size and weight and the more Zebu a beast is the better its market price. Meat is sold by weight in the markets; no distinction is made between quality and other cuts.

Meat is expensive (1s. 6d. per lb., as against 4d. in Lagos and 2d. in Kano (Nigeria) ), and no other British Colony imports so much tinned or preserved meat. From French West Africa the import of Zebu bullocks averages 50,000 yearly.

The following figures show the imports of cattle by sea from Nigeria and French Cameroons for the period under review. These imports are in addition to the large numbers of cattle coming in over the northern frontiers.

	<i>Accra.</i>	<i>Takoradi.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
From Duala	700	—	700
From Nigeria	2,379	355	2,734
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	3,079	355	3,434
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

In the north, Native Administration farms, whose primary function is to produce good bulls, have been further developed, and at Pong-Tamale, the headquarters of the Department of Animal Health, a beginning is being made in the formation of a dairy herd. On the coastal plains, where there are large numbers of cattle, a veterinary farm is being established at Nungwa, about ten miles east of Accra, for the production of improved bulls, pigs, and poultry. A start will shortly be made on this farm, the institution of which has been long delayed by a land dispute.

No serious outbreak of disease was recorded in the period under review. Active immunisation of susceptible young stock on the coastal plains against rinderpest is carried out every two years. The bulk of the cattle on the coastal plains is now immune to rinderpest.

#### *Animal Health.*

Pong-Tamale in the Northern Territories is the headquarters of the Department of Animal Health, where there is an up-to-date laboratory, a stock improvement and experimental farm and a centre for training Africans in veterinary work.

The year 1938–39 is remarkable in that it is the first year on record in the Gold Coast in which there have been no outbreaks of rinderpest or contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia. The anti-rinderpest immunisation scheme eliminated rinderpest some years ago but the suppression of pleuro-pneumonia is new and is due to the efficacy of the vaccine produced at the Pong-Tamale laboratory. This vaccine was available in large quantities, many thousands of prophylactic vaccinations being done throughout the country. It is hoped that this procedure will stop the appearance of contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia or at least reduce it to the smallest proportions. The vaccine is efficient and its inoculation is unattended with risk. Two-year-old cattle were as



usual permanently immunised against rinderpest at the district camps: no incident attended this routine procedure which was as usual accomplished with the minimum of casualties. The insurance scheme mentioned last year has been extended throughout the Northern Territories and to one district of the coastal veterinary section. In this latter area the people are backward in local government and it may be long before it is possible to apply the insurance scheme in the area between Ada and Accra. Under the scheme every owner pays the sum of 1s. to the Native Administration for each animal he brings to an immunisation camp and he receives the sum of £1 for each death: the insurance covers not only deaths from rinderpest reaction but also sporadic mortality due to accident and similar causes. The sum paid out is not large but in most parts of the Northern Territories it represents very nearly the value of the lost beast, which is usually a quarter-grown heifer or a young bull. The insurance scheme is administered by the Native Administrations: in the northern parts of the Northern Territories very large profits have been made and it is proposed to fund the scheme in these districts where casualties are very small. In the southern parts of the Northern Territories, where casualties are higher owing to latent trypanosomiasis and other enzootic diseases, the money collected easily covers the mortality. The scheme is organised to allow for a five per cent mortality. As mortality seldom occurs on such a large scale, there is ample allowance for high mortality in special circumstances.

Further clearings to eradicate tsetse-fly from selected areas were carried out, but tsetse eradication on a really large scale is an expensive and lengthy process. The cattle of the Gold Coast possess a remarkable resistance to trypanosomiasis and, provided that the environment is benign, clinical cases seldom appear. This disease is likely to become an economic problem only in areas where there is a shortage of water and of suitable grazing. The imported Zebu cattle from the far north of the French Sudan and similar localities are very susceptible to trypanosomiasis, but even they possess sufficient resistance to enable them to reach the southern markets in fair condition.

Cases of rabies have again occurred in many parts of the country, but suitable control measures and numerous vaccinations of dogs prevented the situation from becoming serious.

#### *Animal Husbandry.*

In the early part of the period under review the live-stock trade had become disorganised as a result of the cocoa "hold-up" in the Colony and Ashanti. When the trade was becoming normal once more at the end of 1938, it was again disturbed by an outbreak of human cerebro-spinal meningitis in the north-east of the Northern Territories where the French trade cattle enter the country. This



caused the complete closure of two quarantine stations and the partial closure of one other station, so that on the whole the year has not been a good one for the live-stock trade. This outbreak occurred in the most developed cattle area and many local owners were unable to sell their bullocks owing to the restrictions on traffic. The outbreak has now ended and the movement of cattle is normal. Attention has been paid to the question of landing cattle by sea at Accra, which is the main port of entry for cattle from Nigeria and the Cameroons, and conditions have been considerably improved.

The principal obstacle to the successful development of the live-stock industry is the scarcity of water in certain areas. This is specially acute in the coastal plains east of Accra. Experiments have been carried out in the improvement of water supplies during the past year on a limited scale, and it is hoped that the activities of the Water Supply Section of the Geological Survey Department will eventually go far towards solving this important problem.

The cattle development scheme in the Northern Territories has been nearly completed. There are now twenty Native Administration cattle farms throughout the Protectorate. Six more remain to be built and stocked. These farms are permanent structures of red laterite stone and are stocked with a minimum of forty cows, of the best type obtainable locally, and one improved bull supplied by the Department of Animal Health. The main object of these farms is to supply improved communal bulls to the village herds. Two-thirds of the funds have been supplied by Government in the form of a grant, the remaining third and the cost of maintaining the farms being borne by the Native Administrations. Great care has been taken in the selection of the animals for these farms and only the best which can be procured have been bought. The chiefs and officials of the Native Administrations have taken a keen interest in the scheme and each farm is managed by an elder of the Native Administration under the advice and general supervision of veterinary officers.

#### *Pong-Tamale Live-stock Farm.*

The Government farm at Pong-Tamale exists for the purpose of producing improved strains of cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry. Much experimental work is also carried out. The improved bulls for Native Administration farms come from this farm and are of three types, namely, N'dama, Sanga, and West African Shorthorn. The N'dama is a very hardy West African breed of animal which has been evolved in French Guinea but exists wherever unhumped cattle are found. It has been proved to be more practicable to buy these animals from the French than to isolate the type from the local animals by selection. The special advantages of this particular breed are very good conformation and a remarkable resistance to trypanosomiasis: it possesses,



however, the disadvantage of being rather small in size. This type is used to grade up the cattle of the southern part of the Northern Territories. The Sanga is a fusion of the Zebu and the dwarf Shorthorn and quite two-thirds of the indigenous cattle of the Gold Coast are of this type. The local owners have produced their own Sangas by crossing Zebu bulls and dwarf Shorthorn cows, but in many cases the Zebu bulls have been of an inferior class and results have been unsatisfactory. First class Sanga cattle have been produced on the Government farm at Pong-Tamale by crossing the best types of Zebu bulls and the best dwarf Shorthorn cows and then fixing the type by breeding within it. The West African Shorthorn, which is mainly dwarf Shorthorn, is produced for the extreme southern areas of the Protectorate and the coastal plains in the Colony.

Experimental work has been started in connection with dairying and milk production. The local cows have never been accustomed to being fully milked but merely to partial milking whilst suckling their calves, with the result that, when full milking is attempted, they hold their milk and yield little or nothing. First calf heifers have all had their calves taken away at birth and have been hand-milked entirely, the calves being hand-fed. Results have been excellent as regards the calves, which have shown a marked general improvement, but the milk production has been uneven: satisfactory results are not expected until the second lactation. The experiment is, however, encouraging, and it is hoped that eventually it will be possible to establish a milk industry in the Gold Coast. Several good milking cows were also hand-milked, and one of these gave a gallon of milk a day nine months after calving.

The pig and poultry branches of the farm continue to meet a considerable local demand. The sheep branch has been re-established owing to the provision of adequate accommodation for these animals.

### **Forestry.**

The forest policy of the Government is directed to maintaining sufficient land under forest in suitable localities, both in the interests of agriculture and water supplies and with a view to sustaining an adequate production of timber and fuelwood and of the minor forest products required for the use of the people. Such protected areas are termed forest reserves.

The administration of each forest reserve is at the option of the Native Authority concerned. If the Authority elects to pass rules or bye-laws, the Forestry Department acts in an advisory capacity with regard to their enforcement. If it does not so elect, reserves are constituted under the Forests Ordinance and Government, through the Forestry Department, administers them for the benefit of the owners. The original ownership of the land remains unchanged under either system.

The closed forest zone of the Colony, Ashanti and Togoland has been the centre of activities since the inception of the Forestry Department. Latterly these activities have been extended to the savannah forests of the Northern Territories and satisfactory progress during the past year has been reported from that area where the lack of fuelwood and of poles for building purposes has always been acute. As the Native Administrations extend their other activities, the demand for structural and domestic wood is expected to increase.

#### *Forest Reservation.*

Up to the present time the work of the Forestry Department has consisted primarily of the selection, demarcation and constitution of essential reserves. This work, though not quite completed as far as the Colony and Ashanti are concerned, is well on the way to completion. In the closed forest zone the "swollen shoot" disease of cocoa has led to a more general realisation of the need for protective forests, and the system of existing reserves is undergoing close scrutiny with a view to strengthening, where necessary, any weak links in the chain.

During the past year two forest reserves totalling some sixty-one square miles, were demarcated in the Northern Territories as a commencement of the programme of forest reservation there.

#### *Working Plans.*

Progress continues to be made in the preparation of working plans covering the various forest districts situated in the closed forest zone. In the Northern Territories, working plans are being prepared for each Native Administration either separately, or, where this is more desirable, for sub-divisions thereof. Two such plans were prepared during the year entailing a full examination of the areas concerned. Such examination includes a record of the extent of existing forest and estimates of areas of plantations to be created to meet present and future needs. At the same time enumeration surveys were made to show the stocking of the forest, and the local vernacular names and uses of trees were recorded.

#### *Silviculture.*

Planting operations in the Colony were severely affected by the lack of rainfall in the critical month of July, which caused heavy losses of young plants.

In the Northern Territories a number of nursery sites were selected and trial nurseries were established. Where it was found that the soil was suitable, that the water supply was adequate, and that there was no danger of excessive flooding, these nurseries have been enlarged. It is expected that some 25,000 plants will



thus be made available for the 1939 planting operations. Sleeping sickness is one of the prevalent diseases in the Northern Territories and the control of its carrier, the tsetse-fly, is closely connected with the control of the type of vegetation in which it breeds.

### *Utilization.*

Exports of mahogany generally showed a sharp decline of about 36 per cent in comparison with the figures for the previous year. Exports of mahogany timber decreased by approximately 30 per cent. The demand on markets abroad for all kinds of hardwood timber decreased towards the end of the year. The international political situation of the year 1938 probably contributed largely to the fall in exports. Another factor, undoubtedly, is the poor quality of the producers' work. Badly fashioned logs, and logs exposed to weather for some time, are always difficult to dispose of ; with a sluggish market every such log is a liability. Advice and assistance rendered in the post-slump years materially helped in the recovery of the trade, but increasing prosperity appears to have brought with it a reversion to lax methods of preparation. This position has, however, one redeeming feature, namely, that the major exporters are beginning to realise that there is always a more or less steady market for well produced material and that an influx of inferior products tends to depress the market. With this realisation has grown a desire for co-operative action with a view to the prohibition of the export of sub-grade logs. The principles have been enunciated by the trade and a committee, on which the trade is strongly represented, is working on the details of a scheme of grading and control.

The interest shown by local firms and Government departments in timbers other than mahogany continues to increase. Possibilities of development exist, but they depend on improved extraction, extended sawmilling facilities and the wider use of wood preservatives. Gold Coast timbers were prominently displayed at the Empire Exhibition at Glasgow and received much favourable comment. A brochure was prepared picturing the eleven timbers exhibited ; this has been widely distributed throughout the world. Numerous sets of hand specimens of useful timbers were prepared during the year and distributed in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, South Africa, and Australia, as well as locally. Overseas enquiries have prompted a trial shipment of three of the woods recently exhibited.

The following table gives the exports for 1938 compared with 1937 :—

Articles	Comparative Statement.			
	1938		1937	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Mahogany (all kinds)				
Logs ... .. Cub. ft.	652,571	68,878	1,034,240	112,602
Sawn ... .. Cub. ft.	26,784	5,268	42,804	8,226
All other kinds :—				
Logs ... .. Cub. ft.	3,032	311	56,072	5,171
Sawn ... .. Cub. ft.	12,151	2,518	15,412	3,580
Total (Value) ...	—	76,975	—	129,579

The total volume of native timber used locally cannot yet be ascertained accurately. During the past year, about 1,400,000 cubic feet were utilised commercially by saw mills, the larger timber and engineering firms, mining companies and Government departments.

### Mining.

Mining in the Colony, Ashanti and the Northern Territories has been confined, as in previous years, to the winning of gold, diamonds and manganese ore. There was a slight increase in the total number of labourers engaged in mining compared with the previous year. The average daily number of persons employed throughout the year on all mining and prospecting operations was 1,023 Europeans and 39,122 Africans, or 46 more Europeans and 1,339 more Africans than in 1937–38. It is estimated that during the year mining companies expended in the Gold Coast an amount of £2,891,000 on account of all mining operations and that out of this amount a sum of approximately £1,036,000 was paid out in wages to African employees. These figures compare with £3,004,000 and £1,011,000 respectively in the previous year.

### Gold.

The figures for the total gold production in 1938–39, which amounted to 701,416 fine ounces valued at £2,979,617 (at par), shew that past records have once again been broken, the 1937–38 figures being exceeded by 111,391 fine ounces and £473,191 respectively. At the end of the year there were fifteen mines in



production and five in the development stage, while twenty-four mining companies were engaged in prospecting in various parts of the country. In the Northern Territories the Dokuripe Exploration Company, Limited, is now in production, while in Ashanti, Konongo Gold Mines and Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited, have increased their respective outputs. Recent developments on the property of the latter company indicate that its existing resources have been enriched by further valuable discoveries.

The "banket" mines in the Colony, consisting of Amalgamated Banket Areas, Taquah and Abosso Mines Limited, Gold Coast Banket Areas and Ashanti-Adowsena (Banket) Goldfields, Limited, continue in production. A new vertical shaft and mill are being constructed by Amalgamated Banket Areas, and a new shovel system is being adopted at Pepe. It is expected that these will result in a further increase of tonnage. Although South Banket Areas, Limited, have not reached the stage of production, this company has, according to published reports, a substantial ore reserve and arrangements have already been completed for the erection of a mill.

Of the "reef" mines, Ariston Gold Mines (1929), Limited, will be able to increase their tonnage on the completion of a new central shaft and mill extension. Results at Gold Coast Main Reef during the year are very encouraging, and work on the installation of a mill is proceeding. From indications at Gold Coast Main Reef, the Prestea-Anfargah-Bondaye strip of country holds promising possibilities.

Bremang Gold Dredging Company, Limited, which holds concessions on the Ankobra River, completed the erection of two dredges and production commenced during the year.

The gold mining industry is rapidly assuming greater importance yearly and it is likely that in the near future larger tonnages will be raised and treated.

#### *Manganese.*

As in previous years there was only one company producing manganese ore, namely, the African Manganese Company, Limited, which operates at Nsuta, situated in the Wasaw-Aowin district of the Western Province of the Colony. A new and up-to-date washing plant, capable of handling 3,000 tons per ten-hour day, is nearing completion. The ore exported during 1938-39 amounted to 257,378 dry tons valued at £681,188, as compared with 532,126 dry tons valued at £1,166,175 in the previous year; the decline in exports was due to adverse conditions in the world market.

#### *Diamonds.*

The total amount of diamonds exported during 1938-39 was 1,440,322 carats valued at £595,989 as compared with 1,380,336 carats valued £588,169 in the previous year. These figures show an increase of 59,986 carats and of £7,820 in the value of diamonds exported.

There were five diamond-producing companies in operation throughout the year under review. Work was also carried out by a number of Africans, on their own behalf, in the Tarkwa district and elsewhere. These independent producers sold to the banks about 39,000 carats valued at approximately £17,000 ; this was double their output during the previous year.

#### *Concessions.*

Thirty-four certificates of validity for mining concessions were granted during the year, twenty-nine in the Colony and five in Ashanti. Six mining licences and six dredging licences were issued, all in respect of the Colony. Five prospecting rights were granted under the Minerals Ordinance applicable to the Northern Territories, whilst a total of 126 prospecting licences was issued as compared with 189 in the previous year.

A new edition of the *Mining Regulations Handbook* was published in the latter part of the year.

#### *Geological Investigations.*

An account of the investigations carried out during the year by the Geological Survey Department is contained in Chapter XVII of this report.



## CHAPTER VII. COMMERCE.

The Gold Coast is pre-eminently a producing country, local manufactures being few and, with the exception of the brewing and aerated waters industries, of little commercial importance. Its commercial existence and prominence depend almost solely on its agricultural and mining products and the prices which are obtained for such products in the world's markets.

The Gold Coast is the principal producer of cocoa in the world (it produces about 42 per cent of the world's crop), its output of gold is considerable (approximately 700,000 fine ounces in 1938), and it is the fourth largest producer of manganese ore, as well as the second largest producer of diamonds, in the world.

Cocoa, however, is the life-blood of the Gold Coast, because it is wholly a peasant industry, and more than any other factor the price obtained for cocoa in the world's markets determines the value and the volume, as well as the nature, of the country's principal imports.

Between the years 1919 and 1931 the value of the cocoa exports in relation to the total value of *all* domestic exports varied from 70 to 83 per cent. That percentage value has fallen since 1931 as a result of the low prices for cocoa ruling in the world's markets and the increasing importance of the gold mining industry, but only in 1938 did that value fall below 50 per cent. In that year the corresponding value was only 41 per cent, and that was due in a considerable measure to the cocoa "hold-up," which, commencing in the second week in November, 1937, lasted until the 27th April, 1938, after which date exports of cocoa were regulated until the end of September, 1938.

Other agricultural products are of little commercial importance.

The next most valuable product is gold, the value of the exports of which in 1938 exceeded the value of cocoa for the first time since 1909 and at nearly £5,000,000 represented 44 per cent of the total value of the domestic exports of the Gold Coast. Had it not been for gold mining activities the trade of the Gold Coast in 1938 would have been much worse than it was.

With about 1,000 Europeans and 39,000 Africans employed in the mining industry in 1938 that industry plays a very important part in the trade of the Gold Coast, a part which it will continue to play as long as the price of gold remains at its present level.

The most valuable imports of the Gold Coast are machinery, cotton piece goods, iron and steel manufactures, oils (fuel, petrol, and kerosene), tobacco, apparel, artificial silk piece goods, and motor vehicles, while there are large imports of foodstuffs, principally canned fish and meat, rice, flour and sugar.

The close relationship between the value of the cocoa exported and the value of the country's imports is evidenced by the considerable decrease in the imports in 1938 of foodstuffs, drink, and tobacco, cotton piece goods, apparel, artificial silk piece goods, buckets, pails and basins, corrugated iron sheets, motor vehicles, petrol and kerosene, beads, lamps and lanterns, medicines and drugs, and perfumery, the demand for which goods varies directly with the value of the cocoa crop.

The only articles of general trade the imports of which are restricted are cotton piece goods, cotton towels, artificial silk piece goods, and gin, but except in the case of cheap Japanese textiles the quotas for such articles had no restrictive effect on their importation in 1938, the quota quantities being considerably in excess of local requirements.

### Import and Export Trade.\*

The value of the import trade in 1938 (exclusive of specie and currency notes) was £7,657,734, which was £4,649,021, or 38 per cent, less than the corresponding value in 1937.

TABLE I.

TOTAL VALUE OF IMPORTS FOR 1938 AND FOUR PREVIOUS  
(CALENDAR) YEARS.

1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
£ 4,848,800	£ 7,956,780	£ 11,656,719	£ 19,228,363	£ 10,380,323

These figures include imports of specie and currency notes amounting to :—

458,331	580,845	3,125,829	6,921,608	2,722,589
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TABLE II.

TOTAL VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR 1938 AND FOUR  
PREVIOUS (CALENDAR) YEARS.

1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
£ 7,849,523	£ 9,240,894	£ 12,239,952	£ 15,949,533	£ 11,079,870

\*All figures relating to imports and exports refer to the calendar year.



TABLE III.

TOTAL VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS FOR 1938 AND FOUR  
PREVIOUS (CALENDAR) YEARS.

1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
£ 267,933	£ 730,641	£ 396,947	£ 268,660	£ 4,345,626
171,097	656,939	300,068	94,268	4,149,628

These figures include the following re-exports of specie and currency notes :—

The large increase in 1938 was due mainly to the shipment back to the United Kingdom of old alloy coins withdrawn from circulation as a result of the introduction of a new issue of alloy coinage.

TABLE IV.

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL IMPORTS PROVIDED BY EMPIRE COUNTRIES  
AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND PERCENTAGE PROVIDED BY THE  
PRINCIPAL SUPPLYING COUNTRIES.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
EMPIRE COUNTRIES.					
United Kingdom ... ..	57·10	57·33	54·48	49·37	56·52
British West Africa ... ..	28·7	2·15	2·14	1·78	2·36
British India ... ..	—	—	2·54	2·54	2·04
Canada ... ..	—	—	0·87	1·05	0·87
Other Empire Countries ... ..	4·63	5·03	0·65	1·08	1·65
Total Empire Countries ...	64·60	64·51	60·68	55·82	63·44
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.					
Belgium ... ..	0·99	1·42	2·13	2·73	1·43
Czechoslovakia ... ..	1·55	2·25	2·56	3·07	1·89
France ... ..	1·46	1·12	1·06	0·84	0·68
Germany ... ..	4·78	5·76	6·98	8·88	5·98
Italy ... ..	0·79	1·47	1·18	1·59	1·63
Japan ... ..	3·23	3·14	3·59	4·10	3·71
Netherlands ... ..	2·71	3·39	4·97	4·57	2·14
United States of America ...	11·59	10·27	10·03	11·12	10·13
Other Foreign Countries ...	8·30	6·67	6·82	7·28	8·97
Total Foreign Countries ...	35·40	35·49	39·32	44·18	36·56
Grand Total ... ..	100	100	100	100	100

It will be seen that the percentage of total imports provided by the United Kingdom is greater than that of the previous two years.

TABLE V.

PERCENTAGE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS SENT TO EMPIRE COUNTRIES,  
FOREIGN COUNTRIES, AND TO THE PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES OF  
DESTINATION.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
EMPIRE COUNTRIES.					
United Kingdom ... ..	57·2	56·0	49·8	48·1	67·3
British West Africa ... ..	0·1	0·1	0·1	0·0	0·0
Other Empire Countries ... ..	1·8	2·7	2·8	2·9	2·3
Total Empire Countries ... ..	59·1	58·8	52·7	51·0	69·6
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.					
United States of America ... ..	15·5	16·0	23·6	23·0	12·3
Germany ... ..	13·8	13·0	13·6	14·5	7·2
Netherlands ... ..	5·2	5·8	6·2	5·4	5·4
France ... ..	1·9	0·8	0·3	0·2	0·2
Other Foreign Countries ... ..	4·5	5·6	3·6	5·9	5·3
Total Foreign Countries ... ..	40·9	41·2	47·3	49·0	30·4
Grand Total ... ..	100	100	100	100	100



TABLE VI.

\*IMPORTS—VALUES OF THE PRINCIPAL IMPORTS FROM ALL COUNTRIES AND FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, IN £ THOUSANDS.

Articles.	1936.		1937.		1938.	
	All Countries.	U.K.	All Countries.	U.K.	All Countries.	U.K.
Tobacco ...	279·3	202·5	360·0	281·2	282·4	209·8
Fish ...	197·9	6·0	280·2	4·0	208·1	6·3
Meat ...	162·2	15·0	193·5	9·8	127·2	14·2
Spirits (potable)	123·4	60·5	201·7	106·0	91·6	67·6
Flour ...	118·2	1·5	181·0	3·1	121·3	3·3
Rice ...	102·9	1·1	179·7	1·3	117·1	0·8
Total Class I— Food, Drink and Tobacco	1,465·5	499·5	2,246·7	733·3	1,422·6	457·8
Class II—Coal and other Raw Materials ...	134·1	62·9	206·6	97·5	217·1	64·8
Cotton Manufac- tures :						
Piece Goods ...	1,657·8	1,055·2	1,979·5	1,242·8	820·0	538·7
Other kinds ...	194·8	130·3	261·5	165·7	117·9	80·9
Artificial silk manufactures	265·4	61·0	443·0	106·7	245·5	29·8
Apparel ...	170·1	105·9	458·3	202·8	215·7	120·6
Machinery ...	958·8	851·0	1,279·2	1,065·7	1,185·5	981·2
Iron and Steel Manufactures	751·3	443·8	947·5	571·6	507·6	370·4
Carriages, Carts and Wagons	428·7	211·5	646·6	160·4	479·7	335·6
Oils ...	425·3	29·4	643·2	20·5	492·7	17·3
Cement ...	129·5	79·0	197·7	97·7	144·7	112·2
Explosives ...	123·8	119·0	149·8	142·1	160·4	156·5
Medicines and Drugs ...	117·4	86·6	181·1	127·1	91·3	69·4
Total Class III—Articles wholly or mainly manu- factured	6,896·5	4,065·8	9,797·7	5,217·7	5,948·1	3,766·3
Class V Bullion and Specie ...	2,884·4	2,871·4	6,553·0	6,544·7	2,364·1	2,360·2
Grand Total Imports	11,380·8	7,499·7	18,805·2	12,593·2	9,952·8	6,649·1
Less Bullion and Specie	2,884·4	2,871·4	6,553·0	6,544·7	2,364·1	2,360·2
Total Imports	8,496·4	4,628·3	12,252·2	6,048·5	7,588·7	4,288·9

\*Data relating to quantities are not available for inclusion in this table. Class totals are not sums of preceding figures.

TABLE VII.  
VALUE AND QUANTITY OF PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

Articles.	1937.		1938.		Difference.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£		£
Cocoa ...	236,206	9,989,548	263,229	4,540,899	+	27,023
Gold ...	557,764	3,910,757	677,480	4,841,633	+	119,716
Diamonds ...	1,577,661	648,057	1,296,763	548,027	—	280,898
Manganese Ore ...	527,036	1,025,091	324,207	907,972	—	202,829
Timber—unmanufactured ...	1,154,589	129,748	696,599	77,026	—	457,990
Palm oil ...	516	11,049	647	9,873	+	131
Palm kernels ...	8,539	103,964	5,193	39,631	—	3,346
Copra ...	1,465	23,281	993	9,186	—	472
Rubber ...	1,069,452	33,035	1,194,888	29,295	+	125,436
Kola nuts ...	11,123	4,225	12,134	5,286	+	1,011
Hides (cattle), untanned ...	3,819	9,678	2,450	6,346	—	1,369
Hides and skins :—						
Other kinds	25,117	3,033	6,055	616	—	19,062
Lime products :—						
Lime juice ...	276,954	10,762	541,154	27,078	+	264,200
Lime oil ...	1,272	6,228	808	3,518	—	464
Lime fruits, fresh ...	2,218	852	3,873	983	+	1,655
Other kinds	51	96	23	23	—	28



TABLE VIII.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COINS AND NOTES FOR 1938 AND  
FOUR PRECEDING YEARS.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports ... ..	458,331	580,845	3,125,829	6,921,608	2,722,589
Re-exports ... ..	171,097	656,939	300,068	94,268	4,149,628

*Textiles.*

*Cotton Manufactures—Piece Goods.*—The total quantity of cotton piece goods imported in 1938, viz., 30,937,572 square yards (including 175,984 square yards sent in transit to Togoland under British Mandate) was less than half the quantity imported in 1937, when imports constituted a record.

Imports of bleached, dyed, coloured, and printed cottons were all less, the imports of printed cottons being less by 27,273,000 square yards (approximately). Imports of grey cottons, however, increased by 668,906 square yards, due in part to their relative cheapness and to the fact that imports of such goods in 1937 were only slightly more than a third of what they were in 1936, so that stocks held locally were not abnormal at the beginning of 1938, as was the case with other cotton piece goods.

Imports of cotton piece goods (mostly grey cottons) from China amounted to 1,033,316 square yards (including 15,706 square yards sent in transit to Togoland under British Mandate), most of which quantity was imported during the last quarter of 1938.

The percentage of the total imports of each class of cotton piece goods enjoyed by the United Kingdom during the past five years was as follows :—

TABLE IX.

Cotton Piece Goods.	1934	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938
Bleached ... ..	40	68	80	78	77
Dyed ... ..	70	71	69	68	65
Coloured ... ..	57	73	61	61	46
Grey ... ..	37	62	17	25	21
Printed ... ..	80	80	69	65	78
Velveteen ... ..	66	68	59	41	6

*Artificial Silk Piece Goods.*—The total quantity of artificial silk piece goods imported in 1938, viz. 3,687,516 square yards (including 116,639 square yards sent in transit to Togoland under British Mandate), were less than the imports in 1937 by 2,340,000 square yards (approximately).

The following statements show each country's percentage share of the total imports of (a) cotton piece goods, (b) cotton towels and (c) artificial silk piece goods for the years 1934 to 1938 :—

TABLE X.

(a)

Country of Origin.	COTTON MANUFACTURES.				
	Piece Goods (including Velveteen and Headkerchiefs in singles).				
	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
United Kingdom ... ..	69·9	75·8	65·2	65·4	67·2
British India ... ..	0·1	0·2	0·4	0·8	1·7
Nigeria ... ..	2·2	2·2	2·6	2·7	2·8
Belgium ... ..	0·2	0·1	0·2	0·6	0·6
China ... ..	—	—	4·9	2·3	3·3
Germany ... ..	0·3	2·1	3·2	1·2	3·0
Italy ... ..	0·7	3·6	5·0	5·0	7·1
Japan ... ..	6·4	2·0	1·9	2·3	4·4
Netherlands ... ..	6·6	9·3	15·1	17·4	7·1
Soviet Union ... ..	13·2	3·7	0·5	0·0	0·0
Switzerland ... ..	0·3	0·5	0·9	1·9	2·0
Other Countries ... ..	0·1	0·5	0·1	0·4	0·8
Total ... ..	100	100	100	100	100

(b)

Country of Origin.	Cotton Towels.				
	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
United Kingdom ... ..	86·2	98·8	97·3	94·7	89·6
Japan ... ..	13·6	0·7	1·2	3·0	4·8
Other Countries ... ..	0·2	0·5	1·5	2·3	5·6
Total ... ..	100	100	100	100	100

(c)

Country of Origin.	Artificial Silk Piece Goods (including Headkerchiefs in singles).				
	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
United Kingdom ... ..	37·7	29·1	28·8	31·9	15·1
Czechoslovakia ... ..	10·9	27·8	33·7	21·8	20·2
France ... ..	2·5	6·8	9·5	6·3	3·0
Germany ... ..	1·4	3·9	8·9	12·6	9·1
Italy ... ..	4·1	15·3	7·8	10·8	14·2
Japan ... ..	42·2	16·6	9·0	11·8	36·1
Other Countries ... ..	1·2	0·5	2·3	4·8	2·3
Total ... ..	100	100	100	100	100



*Quota Restrictions.*—As the current quota year expires on the 30th June, 1939, and as artificial silk plushes containing not less than 20 per cent and not more than 60 per cent (by weight) of artificial silk ceased to be exempted from quota restrictions as from the 1st July, 1938, it is not possible to give a clear picture of the effect of quota restrictions on the import trade of the Gold Coast in cotton piece goods, cotton towels, and artificial silk piece goods, and on the share of such trade enjoyed by each of the principal manufacturing countries in 1938. It can be stated, however, that the respective quotas for the quota year, 1st July, 1938, to 30th June, 1939, will, with few exceptions, be more than ample.

*Artificial Silk Plushes.*—Such plushes were not subject to quota restrictions from the 22nd July, 1937, until the 30th June, 1938, and the particulars given hereunder indicate the countries which benefited by such exemption.

<i>Country of Origin.</i>					1937 (a). <i>Quantity.</i> <i>Sq. yd.</i>	1938 (b). <i>Quantity.</i> <i>Sq. yd.</i>
United Kingdom	...	...	...	...	10,839	1,109
Czechoslovakia	...	...	...	...	2,545	—
France	...	...	...	...	34,485	—
Germany	...	...	...	...	378,095	206,463
Italy	...	...	...	...	68,787	44,894
Japan	...	...	...	...	65,826	257,005
Switzerland	...	...	...	...	2,584	—
Total					563,161	509,471

(a) From the 22nd July to the 31st December, 1937.

(b) From the 1st January to the 30th June, 1938.

N.B.—The above quantities are included in the figures given in Table X (c).

*Textiles of a kind similar to regulated textiles imported and declared in transit to Togoland under British Mandate.*—Quota restrictions are not applicable to textiles imported and declared in transit to Togoland under British Mandate.

*Apparel.*—In studying the particulars given in the next paragraph it should be borne in mind that additional duties were imposed in June, 1934, on cardigans, jerseys and pullovers, shirts, and singlets of Japanese origin.





Particulars of the principal makes of motor cars and lorries imported into the Gold Coast in 1938 are given hereunder :—

TABLE XII.

Motor Cars.				Motor Lorries.			
Make.	New.	Second hand.	Total.	Make.	New.	Second hand.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.		No.	No.	No.
Ford ...	64	50	114	Chevrolet ...	337	—	337
Opel ...	57	5	62	Ford ...	60	—	60
Chevrolet ...	43	17	60	Opel... ...	40	—	40
Oldsmobile ...	14	3	17	Mercedes-Benz	13	—	13
Vauxhall ...	9	21	30	Bedford ...	12	—	12
Morris ...	5	27	32	Other kinds	22	—	22
Other kinds	37	57	94				
Total ...	229	180	409	Total ...	484	—	484

Of the new motor cars, 82 were manufactured in the United States of America, 47 in the United Kingdom, 39 in Canada, and 58 in Germany.

Of the new motor lorries, 351 came from the United States of America, 20 from the United Kingdom, 59 from Canada, and 54 from Germany.

*Bicycles.*—The average landed cost of the 1,139 bicycles which came from the United Kingdom in 1938 was £4 15s. 11d., the similar cost of the 280 German bicycles being £2 18s. 9d., and that of the 54 Japanese bicycles £1 15s. 1d.

Particulars of the imports of bicycles in 1937 and 1938 were as follows :—

TABLE XIII.

Country of Origin.	Quantity.		Average landed cost.		
	1937.	1938.	1937.	1938.	
	No.	No.	£ s. d.	£	d. d.
United Kingdom ...	5,944	1,139	4 2 11	4	15 11
Germany ...	613	280	3 4 0	2	18 9
Japan ...	360	54	1 13 1	1	15 1

*Value of Exports.*

The total value of the export trade (including the value of *re-exports* other than specie and currency notes) in 1938 was £11,275,868. In 1937 the corresponding value was £16,123,925.

The decline in the value of the domestic exports was due almost solely to the lower prices paid for cocoa, as the quantity of cocoa exported in 1938 exceeded by 27,023 tons the quantity exported in 1937.

*Cocoa.*

In 1938 cocoa lost its place as the most valuable export of the Gold Coast, the value thereof being only 40·8 per cent of the total value of the country's *domestic* exports.

The quantity exported was 263,229 tons, being an increase of 27,023 tons, but the f.o.b. value, viz. £4,540,899, was less by £5,448,649 than the corresponding value in 1937.

The Gold Coast is still, however, the principal producer of cocoa in the world, its exports of this commodity in 1938 being about twice those of Brazil, nearly three times those of Nigeria, and about five times those of the Ivory Coast.

*The Cocoa Hold-up.*

The cocoa hold-up, which commenced in the second week in November, 1937, ceased when the Cocoa (Control of Exportation) Ordinance, No. 21 of 1938, commenced to operate as from the 27th April, 1938. That Ordinance was restrictive in its purpose, in that it was designed to limit the quantity of cocoa which could be exported during any quota period and so avoid flooding the world's markets. Cocoa could be exported only in accordance with a licence issued by the Comptroller of Customs. In practice, however, the Ordinance had no restrictive effect, because in no quota period was the permissible maximum quantity exported. By the enactment of Order in Council No. 58 of 1938 the Ordinance ceased to have any practical effect on the control and export of cocoa as from the 1st October, 1938, from which date cocoa could be exported freely.



The particulars given hereunder show in respect of each quota period the maximum quantity which could be shipped, the portion of each quota which was reserved for new shippers, the quantity in respect of which licences were applied for by such new shippers, and the quantity actually exported by them.

Quota period	Quota. quantity.	Quantity actually exported by all shippers.	Quantity reserved for pre- vious non- shippers.	Quantity applied for by previous non-ship- pers.	Quantity actually exported by pre- vious non- shippers.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
27th April-31st May, 1938      ...      ...	55,000	30,703	3,300	41,266	1,672
June, 1938      ...	55,000	40,150	3,300	57,985	3,043
July, 1938	55,000	54,223	3,300	22,007	3,849(a)
August, 1938      ...	55,000	35,699	3,300	19,584	1,835
September, 1938      ...	35,000	19,466	2,100	8,978	1,057

(a) Includes quantities carried over from the first two quota periods.

## Minerals and Precious Stones.

### *Gold.*

The quantity and the value of gold exported in 1938 were the greatest ever recorded. The quantity exported was 677,480 fine ounces, the sale value of which was £4,841,633. Of this quantity and value, gold in the form of trinkets accounted for 10,706 fine ounces and £75,560 respectively.

Gold trinkets to the value of £512,688 have been exported during the last five years.

In 1938 the value of the gold exported exceeded the value of cocoa exported for the first time since 1909.

The following table shows the quantity of gold in fine ounces exported during the last five years :—

<i>Year.</i>					<i>Fine oz.</i>
1934	...	...	...	...	351,401
1935	...	...	...	...	370,769
1936	...	...	...	...	434,397
1937	...	...	...	...	557,764
1938	...	...	...	...	677,480

With gold at its present price the outlook for the industry **remains** very satisfactory.

*Manganese.*

The quantity of manganese exported during the calendar year 1938 was 342,307 dry tons, the smallest export since 1934. The decline in exports was due to world market conditions.

*Diamonds.*

The quantity of diamonds duty-paid in 1938 was 1,296,763 carats, the sale value of which was £548,027. Compared with 1937 there was a decrease in quantity of 280,898 carats and in value of £100,030. The decline in exports was due to conditions in the world's markets.



TABLE XIV.

Detailed particulars of the exports of diamonds in each of the past four years.

Year.	Serie Goods.		Boart.		Fine Sand.		Total.	
	Carats.	Value.	Carats.	Value.	Carats.	Value.	Carats.	Value.
1935	...	...	...	...	...	£	...	£
	489,172	390,454	656,656	92,545	204,019	63,095	1,349,847	546,094
1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	449,860	380,243	725,539	122,989	239,278	81,815	1,414,677	584,997
1937	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	462,087	417,296	772,134	129,493	343,440	101,268	1,577,661	648,057
1938	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	398,869	358,541	553,457	84,376	344,437	105,110	1,296,763	548,027

### Trade with Japan.

In view of the increasing share of the import trade enjoyed by Japan in recent years the detailed particulars given in the next paragraph may prove of interest.

The value of imports from, and exports to, Japan during the last five years was as follows :—

				<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports</i> <i>(Domestic).</i>
<i>Year.</i>				£	£
1934	...	...	...	141,025	357
1935	...	...	...	230,512	2,650
1936	...	...	...	305,023	2,059
1937	...	...	...	502,652	100
1938	...	...	...	281,887	1

The only articles imported from Japan which showed an increase in value in 1938 were canned fish, tea, coloured cottons, cotton velveteen, artificial silk manufactures of all kinds except apparel, and woollen piece goods.



## CHAPTER VIII.

## LABOUR.

The Labour Department was inaugurated under the Chief Inspector of Labour with a skeleton staff on the 1st April, 1938. For the first four months after his appointment the Chief Inspector of Labour was employed in making an intensive survey of local labour conditions and problems and considering measures which might be adopted for their supervision. His report, which was completed by the end of July, was then examined by Government and steps are being taken to implement certain of his proposals. In particular, it has been decided to establish labour offices in the Northern Territories and a series of rest camps on the principal labour routes which converge on Kumasi. It was also decided to establish a labour exchange in Kumasi which will eventually be run in conjunction with the labour offices and the rest camps. Schemes have been outlined for the care of derelict labourers and for their repatriation at Government expense in deserving cases.

The conditions of labour employed in agriculture have been examined, and legislation which will put such labour on a satisfactory footing is being prepared, together with legislation providing for the regulation of juvenile employment, trades unions and the payment of compensation to workmen killed or injured in the course of their employment.

Other important matters connected with labour problems which have been considered, and for which schemes have been prepared, are the methods of conciliation to be adopted in labour disputes and the possibility of using the machinery provided by native custom for collective bargaining and the ventilation of grievances. It is usual for the African labourer in this country to submit any complaint he may have through his chief or tribal headman and it was considered that advantage should be taken of this custom by the appointment and recognition of tribal headmen in the mining areas. The Gold Coast Chamber of Mines readily agreed to the proposal and by the end of the year ten companies, comprising the majority of the large mining undertakings, had established the system.

Cost of living statistics have been collected and wages boards have been established in Ashanti, the Northern Territories and the three provinces of the Colony to make recommendations regarding the wage rates of Government labour. The wages boards will meet quarterly and in this way wages will be fixed in accordance with the cost of living and not on the basis of the supply of labour available. In fixing the wage rates of Government labour regard has been had to the cost of food, rent, clothes, essentials and luxuries, and an allowance has been made for savings.

Another duty which was entrusted to the Chief Inspector of Labour in December was the compiling of an Emergency Service Register. The register comprises the names of volunteers who would be prepared to help in the case of an emergency. The response, both by Africans and Europeans, was most satisfactory ; all kinds of suitable persons have volunteered, and in this way Government knows beforehand who could be called upon and what functions each could conveniently undertake in the event of a crisis.

A large proportion of the Europeans at present employed in this country are new-comers and it is estimated that fifty per cent of the European personnel in the mining companies, for example, have less than two years' service. It was considered that a short pamphlet containing rudimentary information on native custom and native ways of thought would prove useful. Such a pamphlet was prepared by the Chief Inspector of Labour and it has been printed and distributed amongst the European community.

The activities of the Chief Inspector of Labour during the year under review have therefore been devoted mainly to the preparation of a report on the preliminary survey of labour conditions and to implementing the proposals which were approved by Government. The cost of living statistics already referred to have been summarised and a good deal of time has been devoted to the consideration of legislation relating to labour. Approximately a third of the year was spent in travelling and visits were paid to all the principal mining areas and labour routes.

Labour is required by Government departments, municipalities, mining companies, commercial firms and farmers. Clerical and skilled labour is obtained from the Colony and Ashanti but most of the unskilled labour comes from the Northern Territories, Nigeria and the neighbouring French colonies. Exact statistics as to the number of persons employed are not available except in the case of the mining companies which employed a daily average of 1,023 Europeans and 39,122 Africans. The number of immigrant labourers crossing the ferries southwards from the Northern Territories during the year ending 31st March, 1939, was 108,071. Of these, 47,059 were British and 61,012 were French subjects.

There is no organised recruiting in the strict sense of the word, all labour being usually engaged at the place of employment. Recruiting is prohibited in the Northern Territories though occasionally labour is still obtained surreptitiously by Africans for Africans through agents working in the Northern Territories and in Ashanti. Hitherto labourers have made their own way to centres of employment. By means of the system of labour offices, rest camps and labour exchange, which are now being



established, it is hoped to alleviate the hardships endured by immigrant workers during their long journeys to and from the south.

There has been a good deal of unemployment during the year under review owing to the reluctance of immigrants to engage in agricultural work. This was a result of the cocoa "hold-up" about a year ago when farm labourers had difficulty in obtaining payment of their wages and large numbers had to leave for their homes unpaid. In consequence of this reluctance, the number of unemployed in mining areas and in the large towns, such as Kumasi, increased.

The labour exchange was started in Kumasi in August, and by the end of the year it was so well established that it was possible to advertise the fact of its existence. The number of unemployed for whom work was found between August, 1938, and the end of March, 1939, was 140. The figures would have run into several hundreds if labourers could have been persuaded to engage in agriculture. Further, there has everywhere been a surplus of labour and employers have had no difficulty in obtaining all they require without recourse to the exchange.

In ordinary years the cocoa farms absorb much unskilled labour. There are three main systems of employment: (a) where a definite wage for the year or season is paid, (b) where the labourer receives one-third of the produce (the Abusa system) and (c) where he receives so much per load of cocoa. A further system, resulting from the non-payment of wages a year ago, has been recently evolved whereby the labourer receives his pay daily in advance. The usual rate paid to the casual labourer engaged in this way is one shilling per day. It is the custom in Ashanti for the farmer to engage in written contracts with his labourers, but elsewhere contracts are usually verbal. Where written contracts are the rule, the employee receives free accommodation, food and certain clothing. Owing to the unpopularity of farm work during the year under review, wages have risen and farmers are now prepared to pay £6 per annum as against an average of £4 15s. a year ago.

Except in the case of agricultural labour, written contracts of service are unusual. The ordinary contract is a verbal one which is deemed to be a contract at will and is determinable by either party at the close of any day without notice. The method of payment of wages varies: it may be weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Government labour is paid monthly.

The number of female wage earners, compared with the number of women employed in trading on their own account, is negligible. Women are, however, employed by Government as teachers, nurses and telephone operators, and commercial firms occasionally employ women in various capacities. The number of girls employed by

mining companies is 122. Of these, 107 are diamond sorters, and the remainder are cooks and water girls. The sorters sit at benches or desks and pick out diamonds which show up from the gravel in a bowl of water. The girls are in charge of a female supervisor. Uniform and a private changing room are provided by the employers. The average working day is of nine hours' duration, and the wages vary from 9d. to 1s. 6d. a day.

The employment of children under 14 years of age in any public or private industrial undertaking is prohibited by the Master and Servant Ordinance. This Ordinance also prohibits the employment of young persons under 18 years of age in night work but there are certain exceptions when the age is over 16. Regulation 109 of the Mining Regulations provides that no females or boys under the age of 14 shall be employed in a mine or works, but permission in writing may be granted by the Inspector of Mines for the employment of women or of boys under the age of 14 years in surface excavations and in other surface works. An amendment to this regulation was made during the year under review providing that boys so employed shall be above the age of twelve years (Regulations No. 7 of 1939). In practice, the necessary permit is seldom given but the provision allows for the system of apprenticeship which is such a satisfactory feature of labour in this country.

Young boys assist their parents on farms and are sometimes employed as domestic servants. Others are apprenticed to their fathers or other relatives in various trades. The number of juveniles between 14 and 18 years of age employed in the mining industry, inclusive of the 122 girls mentioned above, was 899 of whom 121 were apprentices.

It is the general rule for labourers working for Government, municipalities and commercial firms to find their own accommodation. The mining companies and a few commercial firms, however, have housing schemes which provide accommodation for a certain proportion of their labour.

A good deal of labour legislation is at present under consideration. There is no factory legislation or provision for sickness or old age. As regards workmen's compensation, companies belonging to the Chamber of Mines have agreed to a uniform scheme. The scheme is simple and comprehensive, and it anticipates a proposed Workmen's Compensation Ordinance which it resembles in certain respects.



## CHAPTER IX.

## WAGES AND THE COST OF LIVING.

The rates of wages for manual labour in Ashanti and the Colony varied during the year under review between 1s. a day and 2s. a day for the unskilled labourer, the average rate being 1s. 3*d.* In the Northern Territories, where living is cheapest, the average rate was 6*d.* per day. Artisans and tradesmen received from 2s. to 7s. and higher rates were paid in certain cases to skilled craftsmen.

Wages in the principal occupations were approximately as follows :—

Occupations.	Average rates of wages.	Average hours worked.
<i>Government Departments.</i>		
AGRICULTURE.		
labourers ... ..	1s. 2 <i>d.</i> a day ... ..	45 hours a week.
PUBLIC WORKS.		
labourers ... ..	7 <i>d.</i> to 1s. 6 <i>d.</i> a day ... ..	} 48 hours a week.
apprentices ... ..	1s. to 2s. a day ... ..	
artisans ... ..	3s. to 5s. a day ... ..	
RAILWAYS.		
labourers, cleaners, etc. ...	1s. to 2s. a day ... ..	
fitters, drivers, machinists, boiler-makers, etc. ...	2s. to 7s. a day ... ..	
<i>Commercial.</i>		
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.		
unskilled labour ... ..	1s. a day ... ..	49 hours a week.
MINES		
unskilled labourers ... ..	1s. to 1s. 9 <i>d.</i> a day ... ..	} 48 hours.
apprentices and skilled tradesmen ... ..	1s. 9 <i>d.</i> to 10s. a day ... ..	
DOMESTIC SERVANTS.		
cooks ... ..	£3 per month ... ..	Usual domestic hours.
washermen ... ..	£1 per month.	
stewards ... ..	£2 10s. per month.	

All Government employees are entitled to free medical attendance. Government employees on a daily rate of pay who have been continuously employed for not less than three years are allowed leave of absence on full pay for a period not exceeding seven days per annum and, subject to the convenience of the department concerned, may, if they so desire, be granted seven consecutive days leave to enable them to visit their homes.

Conditions of employment are governed generally by the Master and Servant Ordinance, the Wages Regulation Ordinance, the Railway Ordinance, and the Regulations made under these three Ordinances.

Domestic servants in the Gold Coast are registered and given licences. During the year 1938, 901 new licences were issued and 4,483 licences were renewed, giving a total of 5,384 domestic servants holding valid licences during the year.

The cost of living varies considerably in different parts of the country but tends to be higher in the coastal towns. The cost of a labourer's food varies from approximately 3*d.* per day in the Northern Territories to 10*d.* per day in the larger towns in the south. Investigations have shown that the unskilled labourer spends about half his wages on food; rents average 8·7 per cent of his total cost of living, essentials 11·6 per cent, luxuries 14·1 per cent and clothes 9·6 per cent. Common essentials are kerosene, soap, and in certain cases, firewood. The usual luxuries are palm wine, beer, cigarettes and tobacco. Clothes are often regarded as investments to be sold later when necessity arises.

The cost of living for clerks, artisans and skilled workers varies according to the station in life and the particular tastes of the individual. The following may be taken as an average case: a clerk earning £5 10*s.* per month will spend £2 10*s.* on food, 8*s.* 6*d.* on rent, 10*s.* 6*d.* on essentials, 14*s.* on luxuries, 11*s.* 6*d.* on clothes, 1*s.* 6*d.* on tribal feasts, 2*s.* on education and 8*s.* on family contributions i.e. a total of £5 6*s.*

The cost of living for Europeans varies from £25 to £45 per month, and may be higher according to the tastes and the responsibilities of the individual concerned.

Owing to the reluctance of labourers to engage in agricultural work during the year, farmers were compelled either to do without labour or to raise the wage rate by 25 per cent. In other cases the rates of wages for unskilled labourers remained stationary. The cost of living also remained constant except in certain areas of the Northern Territories where there is always a seasonal variation.

Wages boards have been established in Ashanti, the Northern Territories and each of the three provinces in the Colony with the object of fixing the wage-rates of Government labour. Certain increases have been recommended, and they will come into effect during the financial year 1939-40.



## CHAPTER X.

### EDUCATION.

Education in the Gold Coast is not compulsory, but the demand for it continues to grow at a steady pace. In Government and assisted schools alone, the enrolment has more than doubled itself in the last twenty years, and, during the same period, there has been a very large increase in the number of non-assisted schools.

The educational system is under Government control, and Government expenditure on education is about £270,000 per annum. Government maintains entirely from its own funds twenty primary schools, three middle boarding schools, a technical school and a number of other institutions for the training of subordinate African staff for various departments such as the Survey and Medical Departments, the Department of Animal Health and the Department of Agriculture. The great majority of schools, however, are managed by missionary and undenominational bodies, to whom a Government grant-in-aid is given in respect of such schools and institutions as fulfil the necessary conditions. Grants-in-aid are paid to four hundred and eighteen primary schools, three secondary schools and three mission teacher-training colleges.

There are no schools for European children in the Gold Coast. All schools are primarily for Africans, though in the schools in the larger towns a few Syrian children may sometimes be found.

Save in those schools which are under the auspices of the White Fathers' Mission in the Northern Territories, all the pupils pay fees. These are small individually, varying in most primary day schools from 6d. to 3s. 6d. a month according to the standard a pupil has reached, but, in the aggregate, they make a considerable contribution to the finances of the schools. In certain districts in the Northern Territories, where education is just beginning and where the people are poor and without understanding of a moneyed economy, fees may be paid in kind, while in the Colony and Ashanti reductions in fees are made by some missions in respect of the children of teachers and catechists.

Non-Government schools are of two kinds, assisted and non-assisted. An assisted school is one which has reached a certain standard of efficiency and which is included in an educational unit earning a grant-in-aid from Government. The term "assisted school" refers also to Native Administration schools, which are maintained partly by the central Government and partly by the Native Administrations. A non-assisted school is one which does not receive a grant-in-aid.

Grants are awarded on general efficiency and are calculated as a percentage of the expenditure on the salaries paid to teachers

according to an approved minimum scale. The amount of grant-in-aid payable to the various educational units in respect of their assisted primary schools is determined triennially and is awarded for a period of three years, provided that each of the schools concerned maintains a satisfactory standard of efficiency.

The enrolment of all the primary schools, Government, assisted and non-assisted, is about 90,000. Approximately 25 per cent of the pupils are girls.

The primary course is of ten years duration, and the ages of most of the children range from a 5-year-old group in Infant Class I to a 14-17-year-old group in Standard VII. Both in the infant classes and in the junior standards the medium of instruction is the vernacular, but English as a class subject is taught in both grades, beginning with simple instruction in spoken English in the infant classes, and gradually extending in scope until in the junior standards English reading and writing are also taught. In these classes increasing use is made of English for giving routine classroom orders, mechanical work in arithmetic, words of command in physical training, and similar purposes. This helps to prepare the children for the change-over which occurs when they enter the senior standard classes in which the medium of instruction is English, although the vernacular is not entirely discarded and continues to be used occasionally for the explanation of points of difficulty in non-vernacular lessons. In some schools the vernacular is retained as a class subject even in the senior classes.

The amount of written material for vernacular school books is gradually increasing and becoming more varied in type, and, during the last decade, a considerable number of new books has been written in Gold Coast languages. These books are printed in a phonetic script which is used in many other parts of Africa. Their publication has resulted in an increased interest in the study of the vernaculars, and in the devotion by the teachers themselves of more careful attention to the methods of vernacular teaching.

Most of the schools are co-educational, and, though in a few of them the proportion of girls is comparatively high, the boys, in general, far outnumber the girls. To an ever-increasing extent, however, the education of girls is regarded by public opinion in the Colony and Ashanti as a normal development, and those parents who can afford to do so send their daughters to school. As a result of this attitude, the number of girls who complete the primary school course is growing each year. Other factors which are serving to popularise girls' education are the steady increase in the supply of trained women teachers and the provision of more and more facilities for the teaching of domestic science.

With the exception, of course, of the native languages, the subjects taught in the Gold Coast primary schools are all on the



time-tables of the corresponding institutions in the United Kingdom. Many experiments are, however, being made in adapting teaching to the special needs of the community. In some schools in rural areas, agriculture (viz., the production of food crops and the study and practice of crop rotations to maintain fertility) and various arts and crafts have been made the central subjects of the curriculum, and in a number of schools near the coast the pupils are taught how to prepare copra and to market it to assist school funds. In several instances school buildings have been erected either wholly or in part by the senior pupils, while in a few mission boarding schools trade instruction, comprising carpentry and masonry, has been introduced as an experiment, qualified instructors having been engaged for the purpose. So far as is possible, all this practical work is linked up with the other subjects of instruction.

The teaching of hygiene is compulsory in all schools, and, while theoretical instruction is given due attention, this subject is made as practical as possible. In an increasing number of schools small dispensaries, stocked with simple drugs, bandages and first-aid equipment are provided, and much useful work is done by the schools on "Health Days" which are held in co-operation with the Medical Officers of Health. In addition, no fewer than 49 schools possess Junior Red Cross Links, the establishment of which has been one of the strongest influences for the development of a civic sense and of an effective interest in social service to the community. Each of these links "adopts" a village or villages, and the members of the link go there to assist the villagers in clearing away rubbish, and in building houses, bridges, bathing places, incinerators, latrines and roads. Some links carry out educational and agricultural work in addition, by holding reading classes for illiterates, by giving health talks and by planting village gardens and demonstration plots.

Provision is made in all schools for the teaching of Civics. Lessons in this subject aim at giving pupils an understanding of how their country is governed, and of the part which each citizen should play in the performance of his civic duties. The observance of Empire Day and of Arbor Day, which is devoted to the planting of trees in towns and villages, is also designed to encourage and build up a sense of loyalty and of service to the community. This is further strengthened in most schools by a conscious attempt to foster the team spirit by means of the section system which is similar to the house system of boarding schools.

The moral training and discipline which are inherent in membership of the Boy Scout and Girl Guide organisations are available for the boys and girls of the Gold Coast, and further reference to these organisations is made in a later part of this chapter.

Remarkable keenness in learning is shown by pupils, both boys and girls, throughout the Gold Coast and many of their

leisure hours are spent by children in reading and study apart from that which is required in the course of ordinary "homework." When the great difference in cultural background is considered, they compare very favourably with school pupils in any European country.

All the larger towns in the Colony and Ashanti are now equipped with wireless rediffusion stations, and all Government and assisted schools in those towns have been connected to the service at Government expense. The introduction of broadcasting has proved to be of very great value to those schools which are able to take advantage of it. Talks to school-children by officers of the Education and other departments are given from time to time in the various outstations, and a weekly broadcast from Accra to schools all over the Colony has recently been instituted.

As education in the Colony and Ashanti is governed by one ordinance and education in the Northern Territories by another, a section of this chapter is devoted to each. Achimota also forms the subject of a separate section.

#### *The Colony and Ashanti.*

There are nineteen Government primary schools, fifteen in the Colony and four in Ashanti, with an enrolment of 4,299 boys and 1,439 girls and a total average attendance of 5,519. These schools are entirely supported from Government funds, and in each case the staff is wholly African.

The total number of teachers in Government service at the close of the year was 267, of whom 237 were employed in the primary schools and 30 in the technical and middle boarding schools.

The number of assisted schools in the Colony and Ashanti during 1938 was 405, and of the known non-assisted schools 457.

The assisted schools were distributed as follows :—

Ahmadiyya Movement	...	...	...	...	4
A.M.E. Zion Mission	...	...	...	...	6
Basel Mission	...	...	...	...	1
English Church Mission	...	...	...	...	24
Ewe Presbyterian Church	...	...	...	...	83
Methodist Mission	...	...	...	...	72
Presbyterian Church	...	...	...	...	105
Scottish Mission	...	...	...	...	2
Roman Catholic Missions :—					
Vicariate Apostolic of the Gold Coast Colony					28
Vicariate Apostolic of Ashanti	...	...	...	...	10
Vicariate Apostolic of the Lower Volta	...	...	...	...	42
Seventh Day Adventist	...	...	...	...	2
Undenominational	...	...	...	...	11
*United Schools	...	...	...	...	15

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\*Under the joint control of the Presbyterian Church and the Methodist Mission.



The subjects of instruction in the primary schools include speaking, reading and writing in the vernacular and in English, arithmetic, singing, the duties and rights of a citizen, drawing, nature study, hygiene, handwork, and, for girls, domestic science. It is required by the Education Rules that instruction in practical subjects shall receive the same amount of time as that devoted to any of the principal literary subjects, and reference has been made, earlier in this chapter, to the special efforts for adapting this practical instruction to the needs of the community. Generally, the form which the handwork takes depends on the locality; in the town schools woodwork and simple metalwork are favoured, whilst in rural schools gardening, mat-weaving, basket-making, pottery, brush-making, etc., are taught.

In the infant and junior standard classes, girls follow the same curriculum as do boys in those classes, with the exception that they are taught some needlework. In the senior standard classes, however, pupils in all girls' schools and girls in an increasing number of mixed schools receive instruction in domestic science subjects—needlework, cookery, laundry, housecraft and child welfare. The curriculum in these schools is adjusted so as to permit these subjects to be taught both by means of classroom lectures and by practical work. The Education Department, through its women officers, pays particular attention to such schools. At present there are twenty-one schools devoted entirely to the education of girls, nearly all of which are under European supervision, and thirty-nine schools provide approved courses of instruction in domestic science. The number of girls taking the domestic science course in 1938 was nearly 4,000.

Apart from Achimota College there are only three assisted secondary schools in the Colony, namely, Mfantsipim (Methodist Mission), Adisadel College (English Church Mission), and St. Augustine's secondary school (Roman Catholic Mission). All these schools are at Cape Coast. They are partly boarding schools and partly day schools, and they are always full. Their curriculum enables the pupils to sit for the examinations of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate. At Achimota pupils take only the School Certificate Examination, but at the other schools both the Junior and School Certificate Examinations are taken. Subjects other than those necessary for the Cambridge Examinations are, however, included in the curricula of the schools. Agricultural Science (for which a special paper is set in the School Certificate Examination) is taught at Achimota, and pupils in Forms III to V at Mfantsipim receive a course in agriculture, though they do not take this subject in the School Certificate Examination. At Adisadel College a classical bias is given to the curriculum, Latin being compulsory and Greek optional. In recent years the school has successfully produced several Greek plays. There are, in addition, thirteen non-assisted secondary schools, four in Accra, and nine others in different parts of the country.

For technical education, which is in the hands of the Government, there is an increasing demand. The Government Technical School provides full-time four-year courses of training for those who wish to become foremen of works, building inspectors, road overseers, mechanical and electrical foremen, draughtsmen, broadcast technical assistants, telegraph sub-inspectors, trade instructors in schools, etc. The school is organised in two departments, that of mechanical and electrical engineering, and that of carpentry, joinery and building construction. This is the only school of its kind in the Colony, and the demand for admission is so great that the present buildings in Accra are no longer adequate. A new school has therefore been built at Takoradi close to the industrial area of the Colony, where it can keep in close touch with the chief mining centres and also with the headquarters of the railway. The new buildings, which are designed to accommodate 100 boarders and 100 part-time students, will be opened in September, 1939. There are three middle boarding schools which provide an elementary education with a pre-vocational bias. Training is given in carpentry, masonry and metalwork, and for literary subjects (to which two-thirds of the total time available for instruction is devoted) the pupils are divided into four classes corresponding to Standards IV to VII of the ordinary primary schools. The object of these schools is to provide a preliminary training for boys who desire to become skilled artisans, but, during this training, the development of character and of a sense of responsibility in the individual takes a prominent place. In December, 1938, there were 181 pupils in residence at these schools, of whom 76 were being trained in woodwork, 22 in masonry, and 83 in metalwork.

For the training of men teachers there are four training colleges in which a full four years' course is given. The number of teachers in training in these colleges at the end of 1938 was as follows :—

Achimota College	...	...	...	86
Akropong Training College	...	...	...	80
St. Augustine's Training College	...	...	...	80
Wesley College	...	...	...	82
Total ...				<hr/> 328 <hr/>

At Achimota College teachers are trained for Government and for the undenominational schools, and also for the schools of those missions which do not possess their own training colleges.

Akropong Training College, which is controlled by the Presbyterian Church of the Gold Coast, trains teachers for Presbyterian and Ewe Presbyterian schools. St. Augustine's Training College trains teachers for the Roman Catholic Mission schools in the Colony and Ashanti, while at Wesley College, Kumasi, teachers are trained for the Methodist Mission schools.



The number of students selected for training depends on the estimated demand for their services at the end of their course, as envisaged by Government and the missions, and in the normal course of events all of those selected are offered employment in a Government or assisted school when their training is completed. No special provision is made for the training of teachers for secondary schools. Teachers in such schools have generally undergone the course of training for primary school teachers after having passed the School Certificate Examination, and most of them study for higher academic honours in their spare time.

There are six teacher-training centres for women—at Achimota, at Cape Coast (Roman Catholic Mission), and at four of the mission girls' schools, namely, Aburi (Scottish Mission), Mampong, Ashanti (English Church Mission), Mbofraturo (Methodist Mission) and Agogo (Basel Mission).

In the mission training colleges for men, fees ranging from £2 to £12 a year are charged. For the teachers trained at Achimota College the annual fee is £33, but Government awards scholarships of £30 a year to selected students, both men and women. Government also pays grants towards the upkeep of the mission training institutions. All training colleges, including that at Achimota, are inspected by a board of officers of the Education Department.

Association football continues to be the most popular game for boys in the schools and outside, and inter-school leagues are in existence at most of the larger towns. Volley-ball and net ball are the most popular games for girls. Hockey and cricket are played at the secondary schools and in a few of the primary schools, but the cost of the necessary equipment is higher than the latter kind of school can usually afford.

Track and field athletics are engaged in regularly by students at the secondary schools, and in the primary schools in connection with the Empire Day sports meetings which are held up and down the country as part of the celebration of that festival.

There is an inter-college athletic association which, since 1926, has organised annual contests between teams representing the training colleges for men and the secondary schools. Seven teams entered for the contest held in 1938, and Achimota College, by securing the highest number of points, won the Aggrey Memorial Shield which, together with trophies for each event, is presented for annual competition.

In addition to the activities of the Education Department and of the missions and undenominational bodies, the Gold Coast Regiment, the Gold Coast Railway, and the Agriculture, Medical, Police, Printing, Posts and Telegraphs and Survey Departments maintain schools or provide courses of instruction to meet their special needs.

*The Northern Territories.*

There is only one school maintained entirely by Government—the Government senior boarding school at Tamale, which provides education in Standards IV to VII for pupils coming from the various Native Administration junior schools. The number of children in attendance at this school in 1938 was 132, of whom eight were girls.

All the remaining schools formerly controlled by Government have been converted into Native Administration schools, of which there are now eight. These are distributed as follows:—Bawku, Lawra, Wa, Gambaga, Sandema, Kpembe, Yendi and Zuarungu. The total number of pupils in these schools in 1938 was 569, of whom 24 were girls. The expenditure of the Native Administration schools is defrayed partly by Government and partly by the Native Administrations themselves.

There are five mission primary schools in receipt of Government assistance. Of these, four are controlled by the White Fathers' Mission and one by the Roman Catholic Mission (Vicariate Apostolic of the Lower Volta). The total number of children in attendance at these schools in 1938 was 403, of whom 74 were girls. When compared with the figure for the previous year, the enrolment of girls shows some reduction; this is due to certain reorganisation which has been necessary in the girls' section of the White Fathers' school at Navrongo. It is expected that the enrolment of girls will gradually return to its normal proportion in relation to the total number of pupils enrolled.

The Education Rules of the Northern Territories require that a considerable amount of time shall be devoted by the schools to practical activities. Instruction is, therefore, given in such subjects as cloth-weaving, leatherwork, pottery, basket and mat making, the assistance of local craftsmen being sometimes sought. These subjects are taught in all junior schools, and in the Tamale Government school printing, carpentry and metalwork are taught in addition. The wood and metalwork section does not aim at training skilled artisans, but rather at giving boys sufficient knowledge to enable them, when they leave school, to meet their own needs. As is essential in an education system designed for an agricultural community, a great deal of time is given in the timetables of the Government and Native Administration schools to agricultural instruction. This involves in each school the efficient running of a large farm for purposes of demonstration and practice as well as for food production. Although so much emphasis is laid on the teaching of agriculture and handicraft, a proper balance is nevertheless maintained between academic studies and practical activities. In general, the pupils reach a standard in the usual subjects of literary instruction which compares favourably with that which obtains in most schools in other parts of the country.



Provision is made in the Tamale Government school for the teaching to the girls of a little needlework and some laundering and native cookery, but otherwise they follow the same curriculum as the boys. The number of girls is at present too small to justify the appointment of a woman teacher to give them a fuller course of instruction in domestic science subjects. In the White Fathers' Mission school at Navrongo, where there is an enrolment of 43 girls, the girls are ably instructed by the Mission Sisters in needlework, cooking, laundering and cloth-weaving, in addition to being taught a little arithmetic and vernacular reading and writing.

There is a veterinary school at Pong-Tamale which provides a three years' course of training in veterinary subjects and in animal husbandry. One year of the course is spent at the Pong-Tamale laboratory and farm, six months at a quarantine station, six months in the charge of a Veterinary Officer and a year at a cattle immunisation camp.

*Prince of Wales College and School, Achimota.*

This institution aims at the provision of a continuous course of kindergarten, primary, secondary and university education for both boys and girls, and it includes a training department for men and women teachers.

Various special courses are also provided. Commercial classes in the secondary department were opened in 1935. Students who wish to proceed to these classes must take the ordinary secondary school course, except in Latin, during the first and second years, after which they are admitted to a two years' course in commercial subjects designed to prepare them for the Commercial Education Certificate Examination of the London Chamber of Commerce. A one year's course in pig and poultry breeding, fruit-growing and fruit industries has recently been started for a limited number of boys who have completed their primary school education. For girls who have passed through the middle school at Achimota or who have passed the Standard VII Certificate Examination in a primary school, a special course of training has been arranged. In this course the emphasis is on housecraft, and it also includes English, arithmetic, scripture, music, art and vernacular study.

The university section prepares students for the external examinations of the University of London in Arts, Science, Economics and Engineering (intermediate and degree), and for the first medical examination of the same university.

The enrolment in the various departments in the last term of 1938, was as follows :—

Kindergarten	...	...	...	...	60
Lower Primary	...	...	...	...	90
Upper Primary	...	...	...	...	143
Secondary school	...	...	...	...	180
Training College (Boys)	...	...	...	...	86
Teacher-students (Girls)	...	...	...	...	66
University	...	...	...	...	32
Special courses	...	...	...	...	22
					<hr/> 679 <hr/>

Of the above 232 were girls.

The college is under the control of a Council which is constituted as follows :—

- (a) Four members appointed annually by the Governor, such appointments being personal and by name ;
- (b) Six African members of whom four are elected by the Council and two by the Old Achimotans' Association ;
- (c) One member annually elected by the Council to represent missionary education ;
- (d) Three members of the staff, of whom one is African, annually elected by members of the staff ;
- (e) The Principal ; and
- (f) The Director of Education.

In 1938, the second inspection was carried out under the Constitution, by a board of inspectors appointed by the Governor. In its report, which has recently been published, the Board, referring to the aims of Achimota, states—" these are being in a great measure fulfilled," and adds—" the educational scheme presents itself, on a general view, as an ordered sequence from the lowest almost to the highest levels, conducted with notable ability and devotion on the part of the tutors, and a high degree of industry in the pupils."

#### *Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.*

The Boy Scouts organisation in the Gold Coast is an overseas branch of the Boy Scouts Association, and though it is not an official movement it receives official recognition and financial support. The control of the organisation is in the hands of the Supreme Council, of which the Governor, as Local Chief Scout, is Chairman. A full-time Headquarters Commissioner is attached to the Supreme Council. There are five districts, each under the control of a District Scout Commissioner, and all responsible to the Supreme Council. There are at present 282 Rovers, 2,973 Scouts and 1,557 Wolf Cubs.



Like the Boy Scouts organisation, the Girl Guides is not an official organisation in the Gold Coast, but they too receive official recognition and encouragement. The movement is controlled by a Supreme Council which works through a Colony Commissioner and three District Commissioners. The movement continues to expand, and in 1938 there were 28 Companies, 17 Packs, 81 Guiders, 597 Guides and 318 Brownies.

## CHAPTER XI.

### COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

#### *Steamship services.*

A regular passenger and mail service is maintained by motor vessels of Messrs. Elder Dempster Lines, Limited, which sail fortnightly from Liverpool and call at Takoradi and Accra. On the homeward voyage the vessels call at Plymouth before proceeding to Liverpool.

Regular passenger services between the continent of Europe and Gold Coast ports are maintained by certain foreign steamship lines, namely the Holland-West Afrika Line, the Woermann Line and the Chargeurs Réunis.

Cargo services between the Gold Coast and the United Kingdom, the continent of Europe, certain Mediterranean ports, and the eastern seaboard of North America are operated by the following lines: Elder Dempster Lines, Limited; The United Africa Company, Limited; John Holt & Company; Holland-West Afrika; Woermann; Chargeurs Réunis; Fabre Fraissinet; America-West Africa, and Lloyd Triestino.

The length of a voyage from the United Kingdom by mail vessel is 13 to 14 days, and 20 to 25 days by cargo ship.

#### **Takoradi Harbour.**

##### *Traffic.*

The number of ships using the port of Takoradi fell from 752 in 1937-38 to 747 in 1938-39. Nevertheless there was an increase of 8,197 tons in imports, which was due chiefly to the greater quantity of petroleum and fuel oils imported at Takoradi. The tonnage of exports fell from 642,112 tons in 1937-38 to 434,727 in the year under review, in consequence of the decrease in shipments of manganese ore during the latter period.

The total number of passengers who used the port during the year was 10,407. Of these, 5,416 disembarked and 4,991 embarked. The corresponding figures for 1937-38 were 4,739 and 4,739 respectively, or a total of 9,478 passengers.



*Finance.*

The principal working results were as follows :—						£
Total capital expenditure at 31st March, 1939	...	...	...	...	...	3,230,912
Gross revenue	...	...	...	...	...	212,063
Working expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	56,310
Net revenue	...	...	...	...	...	155,753
Gross expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	211,789
Surplus (transferred to Takoradi Harbour Renewals Fund)	...	...	...	...	...	274
Percentage of working expenditure to gross revenue	...	...	...	...	...	26·55
Percentage of net revenue to capital expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	4·82

*Special works and developments.*

Steady progress was made throughout the year in the work of deepening the harbour. The rock-breaker *Druid* was employed on this service.

Concrete flooring was provided in three of the cocoa sheds. This completes the provision of concrete floors in all the cocoa sheds.

A report was made by the Consulting Engineers on a proposal to extend the wharf accommodation at the harbour. This is at present under consideration.

**Railway.***Mileage operated.*

The main line of 3' 6" gauge runs in a northerly direction from Takoradi to Kumasi in Ashanti and thence in a south-easterly direction to Accra, a total distance of 366 miles.

The total mileage open for traffic at the close of the financial year 1938-39 was 500 miles.

*Finance.*

The principal working results were as follows :—						£
Total capital expenditure at 31st March, 1939	...	...	...	...	...	8,686,238
Gross revenue	...	...	...	...	...	1,191,150
Working expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	764,411*
Net revenue	...	...	...	...	...	426,739
Gross expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	1,168,139
Surplus (transferred to Railway Renewals Fund)	...	...	...	...	...	23,011
Percentage of working expenditure to gross revenue	...	...	...	...	...	64·17
Percentage of net revenue to capital expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	4·91

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\*Includes full Renewals Contributions for 1938-39 and £120,878 arrears for 1937-38 made good during 1938-39.

*Passenger and goods traffic.*

The total number of passengers carried during the year was 3,357,796. This was a decrease of 78,682 compared with the previous year, and resulted in a reduction of the revenue from passenger traffic by £12,391.

The total tonnage of goods traffic, including live-stock, was 831,192, a decrease of 174,215 tons compared with the year 1937-38. There was, however, an increase of £277,034 in the revenue collected. This was due to the fact that an increased tonnage of cocoa was railed and the freight on this more than compensated for the loss occasioned by a decrease of 298,063 tons in the quantity of manganese carried by the railway. The increased cocoa tonnage was the result of the cocoa "hold-up" in the previous year.

The principal commodities carried were :—

<i>Commodity.</i>	<i>Tons carried.</i>	<i>Increase. Tons.</i>	<i>Decrease. Tons.</i>
Beer ... ..	5,443	—	66
Building materials ... ..	30,676	—	13,831
Cocoa ... ..	207,808	173,186	—
Coal, coke and patent fuel ... ..	18,068	—	3,557
Local produce ... ..	19,801	—	1,269
Cotton goods and haberdashery ... ..	4,015	—	190
Explosives and ammunition ... ..	2,959	225	—
Firewood ... ..	84,484	—	24,615
Provisions ... ..	15,890	—	2,358
Oil, crude, fuel and gas ... ..	52,070	18,976	—
Kerosene ... ..	6,951	—	2,147
Hardware, including furniture ... ..	8,154	—	2,382
Manganese ... ..	268,089	—	298,063
Machinery ... ..	5,844	—	20,214
Motor vehicles and parts ... ..	3,275	—	3,181
Petrol ... ..	20,054	—	1,069
Timber, local exported ... ..	8,107	—	9,428
Timber, local not exported ... ..	8,681	736	—

*Locomotives and rolling stock.*

The Railway owns eighty-seven locomotives, including four steam rail coaches.

The total engine mileage (inclusive of rail coach mileage) was 1,767,284, an increase of 24,462 miles compared with 1937-38.

*Electric power.*

Seven hundred and eighty-eight additional lighting and domestic power points were installed in Sekondi and Takoradi during the year. The total number of units generated was 2,321,055, a decrease of 13,428 units or .58 per cent compared with the previous year.



*Buildings.*

New buildings erected during the year include a rest house at Konongo, staff quarters at Koforidua, a goods shed at Sekondi, and a booking office and staff quarters at Buamadumase Halt.

*Track.*

The Prestea branch line was relaid with 60-lb. material and included one deviation. The track was also relaid on two miles of line between Takoradi and Nsuta, and progress has been made in the work of strengthening the bridges on the line between Accra and Mangoase.

Additional siding and track facilities were provided at Sekondi, Tarkwa, Aboso, Dunkwa, Obuasi and Akrokerri.

**Government Motor Transport Department.**

As there are only three main railway lines in the Colony, motor transport has rapidly become an essential service. It has been invaluable in opening up the more remote parts of the country, and it provides the only satisfactory means of access to the main railway lines from distant rural areas in which cocoa and other crops are produced.

To meet the requirements of its various departments, it is necessary for Government to maintain a substantial fleet of motor vehicles. During the year under review the strength of this fleet was 76 vehicles, whose carrying capacity varied from 15 cwt. to five tons. The Transport department is responsible for the carriage of mails in certain parts of the country, and also plays an important part in the general development of the Colony by hauling heavy loads of bridge, road and building materials throughout the territory. There are on the staff of the department six European officers who perform executive duties and supervise the general maintenance of the fleet. The actual driving, loading and hauling, and a considerable proportion of the repair work are carried out by the African staff.

The administration of the provisions of the Motor Traffic Ordinance is mainly entrusted to this department. The Chief Transport Officer is the Principal Certifying and Testing Officer and, with the assistance of officers appointed from other departments, is responsible for the testing of all motor vehicles and also for the examination of all applicants for driving licences.

The advent of motor transport has undoubtedly broadened the mind of the African. A few years ago it was the exception rather than the rule for a native to undertake a long journey which probably meant several days or even weeks on foot, whereas to-day villagers think little or nothing of boarding a lorry and going from

one side of the Colony to the other. The African has certainly found in the internal combustion engine an outlet for his natural bent for anything mechanical ; this is borne out by the fact that no fewer than 2,100 applicants presented themselves during the year ending on the 31st March, 1939, for examination for certificates of competency in driving.

### **Posts and Telegraphs.**

Notwithstanding the uncertain trade conditions which prevailed throughout the year under review, the traffic and activity in practically every branch of the Posts and Telegraphs department increased, and the year was marked by steady progress in the improvement and development of the various departmental services. The wireless station at Takoradi was provided with new short-wave equipment which enables ships to be communicated with at a much longer range than hitherto, and an aeradio station was installed at the Takoradi airport in readiness for the extension of the regular air service to that port. Improvements and additions were made to the inland mail services. These included the establishment of a daily service between Accra and Keta and a twice weekly service to and from the southern section of Togoland under British Mandate. A comprehensive programme for the development and extension of the telegraph and telephone trunk routes and circuits was practically completed. This included the erection of nearly two thousand miles of new lines, and many new areas have now been provided with telegraphic and telephonic communication. The hours of business at the principal telegraph offices and telephone exchanges have been extended. These improved facilities have proved very popular with the general public.

#### *Overseas mail services.*

*Air mails.*—A weekly air mail service is operated by Imperial Airways, Limited, and also by the French Aeromaritime, the former via Khartoum and the latter via Dakar. There was a noticeable expansion in air mail traffic during the year under review, some three and a half tons of letters having been despatched from the Colony as against slightly over a ton in the previous year. Arrangements have been made to extend the Lagos-Accra service to Takoradi.\* An outline map showing the position of aerodromes and the existing air routes is appended to this report.

*Surface.*—Regular fortnightly despatches are made to and from the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Holland by the mail-contract vessels of Messrs. Elder Dempster Lines, Limited. Occasionally there is an extra sailing which provides a weekly mail. In addition, mails are carried by vessels of other shipping companies.

Mails are despatched direct to Nigeria, Liberia, the Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Canary Islands and Madeira by every opportunity.

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\*The extended service was opened on 2nd May, 1939.



Mails to South Africa are despatched direct to Capetown approximately once a month, supplementary mails being forwarded via the United Kingdom.

#### *Inland mail services.*

One hundred and eighteen inland mail services were regularly maintained and increases in frequency were made whenever possible. No serious delays were experienced and no losses occurred.

#### *Telegraphs.*

The charges for inland telegrams were reduced recently. As a result, there was a considerable increase in traffic and the sixpenny telegram now plays a prominent part in the life of the African community. The "condolences" telegram is particularly popular and on the demise of a prominent Chief recently one small office handled over a hundred such messages in one day.

The increase in telegraph traffic was reflected in the revenue figures, which, in spite of the reduction in the initial charge, were practically the same as those of the previous year.

#### *Telephones.*

The increasing demand for telephones continued unabated, but, owing to unavoidable delay in the shipment of supplies of instruments from the United Kingdom, a number of installations had to be postponed and it was necessary to open waiting lists at many exchanges. The position improved as materials became available. At the end of the year the Accra exchange was working to its full capacity and it was necessary to add emergency equipment to meet the demand. The numerous applications received from Chiefs for the extension of the telephone system to their villages indicate that the African is not slow to appreciate the value of improved means of communication. A continuous day and night service has been in operation in Cape Coast since November, 1938, the number of towns having such a service being now six, namely, Accra, Kumasi, Sekondi, Takoradi, Tarkwa and Cape Coast. In the other large towns, such as Koforidua, Nsawam, Saltpond, Bekwai, Axim, Dunkwa, Oda, Swedru and Winneba, service is provided until midnight.

#### *Wireless telegraphy.*

The coast station at Takoradi and the aeradio station at Accra gave satisfactory service throughout the year. The training of the African staff in direction-finding duties, in connection with the air services, was continued. Equipment for the establishment of five wireless posts at isolated stations was received towards the end of the year and installation is proceeding. These posts will be located at

Bibiani and Wiawso in the Western Province of the Colony, Hohoe in Togoland under British Mandate, Prang in Ashanti, and Bawku in the Northern Territories. The staff to operate them was trained at the Takoradi coast station and was receiving instruction in the handling of the new equipment when the year closed. The new short-wave equipment at the Takoradi coast station will provide a much improved service for shipping.

*Engineering construction and maintenance.*

The largest programme of construction for the past decade was virtually completed during the year. The additional lines are designed to reduce delay in both telegraph and telephone traffic and to improve the audibility of telephone communications.

The laying of a 28 pair cable between Sekondi and Takoradi resulted in a much more efficient service between these two important centres.

*Motor transport.*

The development of internal mail services necessitated an increase in the number of vehicles. Nineteen mail vans and five lorries were in use at the end of the year. The total mileage covered by vehicles employed on mail services increased to 342,770 miles, and no serious breakdown or delay occurred.

*Business transacted.*

The following is a comparative statement of business transacted :—

	1937-38.	1938-39.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Stamps sales ... ..	50,461	48,172	—	2,289
Money orders issued and paid ... ..	461,135	472,648	11,513	—
Postal orders issued and paid ... ..	341,404	360,716	19,312	—
Parcels dealt with ... ..	91,609	110,977	19,368	—
C.O.D. collections ... ..	10,644	9,627	—	1,017
Telegraph collections ... ..	31,231	29,268	—	1,963
Telephone collections ... ..	43,833	45,688	1,855	—
Savings Bank deposits ... ..	147,600	162,428	14,828	—
Savings Bank withdrawals ... ..	184,464	129,489	—	54,975
Total cash revenue ... ..	134,921	133,322	—	1,599

In view of the bad cocoa season of 1937-38 and the consequently reduced spending power of the public, the position may be regarded as highly satisfactory in that the total cash revenue was only £1,600 less than the highest ever recorded.

The decrease in stamp sales during 1938-39 was due almost entirely to the fact that the figures for the previous year were considerably augmented by sales of the Coronation issue of stamps to philatelists.

Savings Bank business showed a marked increase. The balance of approximately £291,000 due to depositors at 31st March, 1939, was the highest yet recorded.



*Staff.*

The total staff numbered 2,039. Of these, 123 were women, most of whom were employed as telephone operators. There are forty-five Europeans on the permanent staff. Seven Africans hold appointments which hitherto have normally been filled by Europeans.

The Posts and Telegraphs department offers an attractive career for Africans of all standards of education and, in co-operation with the Achimota College authorities, a scheme has been drawn up for the training of African engineers in England.

A scheme for the provision of a certain number of higher-paid posts and improved salary scales for female telephone employees has been approved by Government, and will come into operation in the near future.

**Broadcasting Service.**

Broadcasting in the Gold Coast is carried on by means of rediffusion or wire-broadcasting systems, subscribers being connected to a central station by means of overhead lines similar to telephone wires. The headquarters of the Broadcasting department are at Accra, and the service is operated under the control of a Superintendent of Broadcasting, who is assisted by a number of European Broadcast Officers. The latter are located at the more important stations such as Accra, Kumasi, Sekondi and Tarkwa. A number of African assistants are employed in connection with the technical running of the stations. In addition to the technical staff, African clerks are employed on ordinary clerical duties which include the collection of subscribers' fees.

Subscribers to the service are required to pay a fee of 5s. a month. There is no charge for installation, and the monthly fee covers the rental of the loudspeaker and the general maintenance and servicing of the system.

*Development.*

Eight new wire-broadcasting stations were installed during the past year and there are now sixteen stations in operation serving approximately 4,000 subscribers. Arrangements are being made for the installation of a short-wave broadcast transmitter in Accra so that programmes and news originating locally can be transmitted simultaneously to all stations in the Gold Coast.

*Programmes.*

The Empire programmes of the British Broadcasting Corporation are, on the whole, very well received and provide most of the broadcasting material, but programmes originating locally

are on the increase and now occupy approximately four hours a week. The Education department has recently inaugurated a weekly broadcast to schools which is proving very successful.

Local news bulletins are broadcast every evening from all stations in the Gold Coast. One of the Assistant Colonial Secretaries stationed at Accra undertakes the duties of News Officer. He is assisted by a member of the African staff of the Secretariat, and is responsible for collecting the news and editing the bulletins. Interesting items of news are forwarded to him by the District Commissioners in outlying areas, and copies of the Accra news bulletins are sent to other broadcasting stations each day. A panel of voluntary announcers has been formed at Accra. This includes a number of ladies and gentlemen who take it in turn to visit the Accra broadcasting station and read the local news. A weekly newsletter and sports summary are broadcast from Accra every Saturday to all parts of the Colony on a frequency of 7.05 megacycles.

During the year a number of interesting broadcasts from the Accra studio were arranged. These included talks on special subjects by heads of Government departments, chiefs, distinguished members of the public and visitors from other countries. The Governor's address to the Legislative Council at the opening of the 1939 session was broadcast from the Council Chamber throughout the Gold Coast. Other special broadcasts have been made from time to time in connection with important public events, as for instance the Durbars which were held at Kumasi for the presentation of a set of silver drums to the Gold Coast Regiment, Royal West African Frontier Force, and of a silver ship's bell and a gold shield to the ship's company of H.M.S. *Ashanti* by the chiefs and people of Ashanti.



## CHAPTER XII.

### PUBLIC WORKS.

The Government Public Works Department includes civil, mechanical, electrical and public health branches, which deal with the design, construction and maintenance of public works including roads, buildings, drainage, waterworks and electricity supplies.

#### Road Development.

Work in connection with the extensive road development programme formulated four years ago has made good progress during the year under review.

The roads included in the programme are designed to serve various purposes. Some provide for the development of agricultural areas; an example of these are the feeder roads in the Western Province, which enable bananas for export to be rapidly and safely transported to the port of Takoradi. Other roads enable foodstuffs from agricultural areas or fish from the coastal towns to be transported to inland towns, thus providing a market for the produce and reducing its price to the consumer.

A notable feature of the programme is the development of main trunk roads and the communications between the various mining centres. All these roads are of Class I construction, the culverts and bridges being designed to carry a load which is about twice that permitted under the existing Motor Traffic Regulations.

With few exceptions the maximum permissible gradient for these roads is 1 in 20, the exceptions occurring in difficult country where short lengths with a gradient of 1 in 15 are permitted with a view to effecting economy in construction by eliminating excessively deep cuttings and high banks.

At the end of the period under review the development programme had been in operation for four years during which 506 miles of road have been surveyed and located and 367 miles had been constructed.

All the surveys for these roads have been carried out by Africans under the supervision of European engineers who have laid down the final lines on the contoured plans prepared by the African surveyors.

Of the main trunk routes connecting Kumasi with Accra, Cape Coast and Takoradi, the road to Cape Coast is already completed and it is expected that the road to Accra will be completed about May, 1939.

The road from Takoradi to Kumasi will fulfil a dual purpose. Not only will it link up the various mining areas and provide them with outlets both to Kumasi and to the coast, but it will also serve as the western trunk road to the interior of the Colony. Construction is now completed between Takoradi and Tarkwa and is in progress on the section between Tarkwa and Bogosu whence there is already a road to Bibiani. The section from Bibiani to Mpesetia is at present being surveyed; from Mpesetia to Kumasi a Class I road already exists.

The mining companies have already taken advantage of the rapid means of communication provided by this road and have built a rest house at Takoradi for the use of their European staff. The provision of easy access by road will tend greatly to improve the amenities of life for members of the mining community. Those of them who spend most of their time under the enervating conditions which prevail in underground workings will now be able to enjoy relaxation in comparatively healthy and invigorating surroundings near the sea.

In the Eastern Province of the Colony, a branch road from the Accra-Ada coastal road is in course of construction to a point on the west bank of the river Volta near Hwamekope, where it is proposed to install a ferry service which will connect the road systems west and east of the Volta. Development east of the Volta is under the control of the Political Administration, and is designed to facilitate the transport of produce from the rich agricultural area north of Keta to the markets of Accra and the inland towns. This branch road will eventually be a link in the through route from the Gold Coast to Lome and Nigeria.

In Ashanti, the western trunk road to the north between Offinso and Bamboi on the Black Volta River has been carried a stage further, road-head having reached a point forty-seven miles from Kumasi. A number of secondary routes have been converted into Class I roads with a view to facilitating the transport of agricultural produce to Kumasi.

In the Northern Territories a survey has been completed for the consolidation of the main North Road between Pwalagu and Bolgatanga and schemes have been approved for tarring the surface of the section of the main North Road between Yeji and Tamale. New construction is also contemplated in the near future between Bolgatanga and Bawku. On the completion of this work a Class I road will traverse the full length of the Colony from the sea to the northern frontier.

### **Airports.**

Work in connection with the development of air communications has been proceeding steadily. The Accra airport has been completed. The landing ground has three runways,



one of 1,100 yards, and two of 1,000 yards in length. The buildings include an administration block, which provides accommodation for the Postal, Customs, Health and Immigration authorities, an office for the Meteorologist, and offices for the operating companies ; anti-amaryl quarters for European and African travellers ; and wireless and direction-finding stations.

The hangar, which is equipped with workshops, has a floor area of 125 feet by 90 feet and a clear door opening of 125 feet by 25 feet.

At Takoradi landing facilities are available on three runways each 1,000 feet in length. An administration block and a hangar, similar to those at the Accra airport, are under construction. Anti-amaryl quarters have been erected and a wireless station is nearing completion. Facilities for the landing of aircraft will be available in April, 1939.

A landing ground is available at Tamale, where arrangements have been completed for the collection of meteorological records.

### **Water Supplies.**

Sterile pipe-borne water supplies are provided for the following towns : Accra, Winneba, Cape Coast, Sekondi, Takoradi, Kumasi, Tamale, Pong-Tamale and Koforidua.

The three-year scheme for doubling the capacity of the Accra water works has proceeded according to schedule and the final stage of the work will be carried out during the next financial year. This will include the installation of additional pumps and the completion of extensions to the distribution system in Accra.

The extension of the Cape Coast water supply to Saltpond and Elmina, and to the towns and villages lying between those two towns and Cape Coast, has been completed. A potable supply is thus provided for an area in which the population of 30,000 previously suffered severely from the lack of pure water during the dry season.

The water supplied from all the waterworks in the Colony is of a high degree of purity. Regular supervision is exercised by the Water Works Chemist who makes routine bacteriological and chemical tests of both raw waters and filtrates.

### **Electric Supplies.**

Electricity is available in the towns of Accra, Winneba, Koforidua, Cape Coast, Sekondi, Takoradi, Aburi, Tafo (Agricultural Research Station), Kumasi, Tamale, and Pong-Tamale (Veterinary Laboratory and Farm).

The Public Works Department controls all these supplies except those of Sekondi and Takoradi which are provided and supervised by the Railway Department.

On 1st July, 1938, the charges for current supplied by the Public Works Department were considerably reduced and a system of hiring electrical equipment was inaugurated. There was an appreciable increase in consumption, although a decrease might reasonably have been expected as a result of the cocoa "hold-up", and, notwithstanding the reduction in rates, there was a gratifying increase in revenue. The number of units sold was approximately 9 per cent more than that of the previous year and the revenue from this source rose by one per cent.

### Extraordinary Works.

The amount expended on extraordinary public works was £415,000 as compared with £460,000 in 1937-38 and £292,000 in 1936-37.

The principal services on which this expenditure was incurred were roads, waterworks, hospitals, airports, educational establishments and general sanitary improvements. Apart from road construction, the programme of works included the following important items :—

	£
Infectious Diseases and Tuberculosis Block, Gold Coast Hospital ... ..	14,000
Central Cocoa Experimental Station at Tafo ...	30,000
African Hospital, Cape Coast ... ..	32,000
New Technical School, Takoradi ... ..	37,000



## CHAPTER XIII.

### JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

#### Justice.

The law of the Gold Coast is the Common Law, the doctrines of equity and the statutes of general application in force in England on the 24th July, 1874, modified by a large number of local ordinances passed since that date. The criminal law was codified in 1892. Civil procedure is regulated by the Courts Ordinance and criminal procedure by the Criminal Procedure Code. Both were enacted in 1935 and form chapters 4 and 10 respectively of the Laws of the Gold Coast, 1936 Edition.

Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, called Magistrates' Courts, are presided over by District Magistrates who exercise jurisdiction in certain areas known as magisterial districts. These districts are specifically prescribed by Order of the Governor. There are at present nine District Magistrates in the Gold Coast. The powers and jurisdiction of a District Magistrate are exercised, subject to certain limitations, by District Commissioners and Provincial Commissioners in their own particular districts and provinces, respectively ; but such powers and jurisdiction may not be exercised within a magisterial district or any part thereof. In criminal cases District Magistrates and Provincial Commissioners sitting as District Magistrates have the power of imposing a fine not exceeding £100 or inflicting imprisonment for a maximum period of one year. Their civil jurisdiction is limited to cases in which the amount in dispute does not exceed £150. District Commissioners when functioning as Magistrates, may imprison for a term not exceeding six months or fine up to a maximum of £50 ; their civil jurisdiction is limited to cases where the amount involved does not exceed £100.

A Magistrate's Court constituted by a Provincial Commissioner or a District Commissioner is empowered to hear appeals from Native Courts within its jurisdiction.

Where a Magistrate's Court makes a conviction or order involving either :—

- (a) payment of a penalty not less than five pounds ; or
- (b) the doing or not doing of some act other than the payment of money or the entering into recognizances to keep the peace without sureties and, in case of default in the doing or not doing of such act, the imprisonment of the defendant with hard labour ; or
- (c) imprisonment with or without hard labour ; or
- (d) corporal punishment ;

the party against whom the conviction or order is made may appeal to the Supreme Court against such decision; but no appeal is allowed in the case of any accused person who has pleaded guilty and has been convicted on such plea, except as to the legality or extent of the sentence. An appeal to the Supreme Court may be on a matter of fact as well as on a matter of law.

The Supreme Court of the Gold Coast exercises jurisdiction over the whole of the Colony, including Ashanti, the Northern Territories, and Togoland under British Mandate, and consists of the Chief Justice and seven Puisne Judges. The Chief Justice and the Puisne Judges of Nigeria and of the Colony of Sierra Leone and the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony of the Gambia are also *ex officio* Puisne Judges of the Gold Coast. The Supreme Court comprises Divisional Courts at Accra, Cape Coast, Sekondi, Kumasi and Tamale. At Accra there are sometimes three courts sitting and at Kumasi there are usually two. Criminal Assizes are held quarterly at the above-named towns and special divisional courts are occasionally held in certain of the other important towns.

The West African Court of Appeal, established in 1930, deals with appeals from the courts of the Colonies of the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, the Gambia and Nigeria, from the courts of the Protectorates of Sierra Leone and the Gambia, and from the courts of Togoland under British Mandate.

In addition to the courts already mentioned, there are the courts of the three Provincial Commissioners in the Colony and of the Chief Commissioners in Ashanti and the Northern Territories. A Provincial Commissioner's Court functions as a Court of Appeal from decisions of Tribunals and State Councils exercising jurisdiction in suits relating to the ownership, possession, or occupation of lands. In Ashanti the Chief Commissioner's Court hears and determines all suits relating to the ownership, possession, or occupation of lands arising between two or more Head Chiefs or Chiefs belonging to different Divisions within Ashanti or between a Head Chief of Ashanti and a person subject to the jurisdiction of such Head Chief. It also functions as a Court of Appeal from decisions in certain cases of a Magistrate's Court, constituted by a District Commissioner, of the Asantehene's Court, or of a Native Court, in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Native Courts (Ashanti) Ordinance. In the Northern Territories the Chief Commissioner's Court exercises similar jurisdiction in respect of land cases in the Protectorate. Appeals from the Chief Commissioners' Courts lie to the West African Court of Appeal.

The Chief Law Officer and the head of the Gold Coast Bar is the Attorney-General, who is assisted by a Solicitor-General and four Crown Counsel. The Chief Justice may in his discretion approve, admit and enrol persons to practise as barristers and solicitors in the Court under the provisions of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, section 3.



During the year under review, eighty-nine cases were disposed of by the West African Court of Appeal. Two hundred and seventy-one civil actions were brought in the divisional courts. The total number of appeals and of civil actions in the divisional courts shows in each case a decrease as compared with the previous year's figures.

In the superior courts, there were 256 convictions in criminal cases, a decrease of 110 as compared with the previous year. In the courts of summary jurisdiction there were 15,700 convictions; these figures show an increase of 403 as compared with those for 1937-38.

### Police.

At the close of the year under review the personnel of the Gold Coast Police comprised thirty-seven superior officers, of whom thirty-six were Europeans and one was an African, and 2,055 African officers, non-commissioned officers and constables.

The headquarters of the Force are at Accra. They include the Criminal Investigation Division and the Immigration and Licensing offices. Provincial headquarters are established at Koforidua, Cape Coast and Sekondi in the Eastern, Central and Western Provinces of the Colony. The headquarters of the police in Ashanti and the Northern Territories are located at Kumasi and Tamale, respectively. In addition, there are eighty police stations and sixteen posts throughout the territory.

The African personnel of the Force is divided into three separate branches, namely, the General, the Escort and the Marine Police. The General Police are recruited principally from the Colony and Ashanti. All members of this branch are required to have passed the examination for the seventh standard certificate at a primary school before they can be admitted to the Force. Their main duties include the investigation of crime, traffic control and street duties, the compilation of criminal records, the keeping of station records and the issue and registration of licences for motor vehicles, motor drivers and domestic servants. Most of the Escort Police are illiterate. They come chiefly from the Northern Territories and include a number of ex-soldiers of the Gold Coast Regiment, Royal West African Frontier Force. They are employed as escorts for specie and bullion, as guards for treasuries, banks and other buildings, and on occasions perform traffic and street duty. The Marine Police are recruited from the coastal towns and villages of the Colony. They are for the most part illiterate and are employed solely on duty at ports and harbours in co-operation with the staff of the Customs department.

All members of the Force receive instruction in the care and handling of firearms and are required to fire an elementary course in musketry during their training; but the Escort Police are the only armed section of the Force.

The Police Training School, with accommodation for about one hundred and sixty of all ranks, is situated about three miles north of Accra. The school is equipped with lecture and class rooms, a museum containing much interesting material, open and indoor rifle ranges, a football ground, a tennis court and a canteen. All police recruits pass through this school.

In January, 1939, new schedules of training for recruits at the Police Training School came into force. The new schedules provide for the progressive training of a recruit in the usual police duties over a period of six months. Each month written and oral examinations are held for literate recruits, while illiterates are required to pass an oral examination. Every recruit is required thoroughly to satisfy his examiners as to his ability before he is allowed to pass to the next and more advanced class. The monthly examinations have so far produced very satisfactory results and by July, 1939, a considerable improvement in the police knowledge possessed by both General and Escort police recruits passing out of the Training School will result.

In November, 1938, instruction in riot drill and baton fighting was commenced at the Training School and was later introduced to the provinces.

Twenty-seven police candidates at the Training School qualified for the St. John's Ambulance Certificate during the year.

Promotion and refresher courses are provided for African Inspectors, non-commissioned officers and constables. During the past year one hundred and fourteen members of the Force completed the various courses.

Two police bands are maintained, one at the Training School and the other at Tamale. The former provides music at public functions, dances and other entertainments in Accra. The fees received for the services of the band at Accra are paid into a Band Fund, a proportion of which is paid out to the members of the Band as a monthly bonus on their ordinary pay.

The Criminal Investigation Division has filed 56,416 sets of finger-print impressions since 1923.

The Division is equipped with up-to-date photographic appliances, which have been invaluable in research and detective work.

Crime statistics for the past three years are as follows :—

	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
Cases reported	... 35,901	31,820	33,730
Cases prosecuted	... 28,742	25,887	27,469
Persons convicted	... 30,029	28,360	29,695



The 29,695 persons convicted during 1938-39 were dealt with as follows :—

	<i>Adults.</i>	<i>Juveniles.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Persons sent to prison ...	4,850	1	4,851
Persons whipped ... ..	11	118	129
Persons who paid their fines	21,584	5	21,589
Persons cautioned ... ..	2,151	27	2,178
Persons bound over ...	472	12	484
Persons committed to higher courts ... ..	453	2	455
Persons sent to reformatory school ... ..	—	9	9
Total ... ..	29,521	174	29,695

All licensing duties in respect of motor vehicles, and drivers thereof, as well as the registration of domestic servants, goldsmiths and auctioneers are undertaken by the police, who are also responsible for the control of immigration, the registration of aliens, and the inspection and verification of weights and measures throughout the Colony.

The number of motor vehicles licensed during the past three years was as follows :—

	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
Motor cars ...	1,983	2,182	2,094
Lorries ... ..	6,244	6,104	5,619
Motor cycles ...	366	314	284
Trailers ... ..	2,147	1,527	2,106

The number of driving and other licences issued was :—

	1936.	1937.	1938.
Driving licences ... ..	9,116	9,949	9,687
Domestic servants' licences ...	5,257	5,052	5,384
Goldsmiths' licences (working) ...	1,651	1,769	1,695
Goldsmiths' licences (hawking) ...	1,593	1,753	1,687

### Prisons.

There are twenty-five prisons in the Gold Coast. Of these, four are central prisons situated at Accra, Sekondi, Kumasi and Tamale, respectively, and the remainder are local prisons situated at the headquarters of the various administrative districts. The central prisons receive long-sentence prisoners from the local prisons. They also distribute supplies to local prisons and serve as training centres for prisoners in various industries and trades which will be useful to them on discharge.

During the year under review 9,548 persons were committed to prison. Of these 6,663 were sentenced to terms of imprisonment with hard labour. Of the latter, 614 or 9·2 per cent were convicted

for offences in connection with the illicit distillation of liquor, and 331 for motor traffic offences. Twenty-two per cent were recidivists : this was a slight increase on the figure for the previous year. The number of women convicted was 392. There were seven executions as compared with 22 in the previous year, and there were 34 escapes from prison and 19 recaptures.

There was a marked improvement in the general conduct of prisoners. The number of punishments inflicted was seventeen per cent less than in the previous year, and the number of whippings for prison offences was twenty-three only as compared with forty-eight in 1937-38. There is little doubt that the cause of this improvement is the newly-adopted policy of granting certain privileges for good behaviour. These privileges include the remission of marks, permission to play draughts or the native game of "warri" in prisoners' cells, listening to wireless broadcasts, and freedom from direct supervision when working inside the prison. Such privileges are liable to be withdrawn if a satisfactory standard of conduct is not maintained. This method of dealing with prisoners has proved to be more effective than the use of repressive measures. The latter are only resorted to in dealing with hardened cases.

The types of labour on which prisoners are employed can be divided into four classes, namely, industrial work in the workshops, which includes cabinet-making, tailoring, leatherwork, the making of cane furniture, weaving, basket and mat-making; skilled extramural labour such as brick making, masonry and building construction; unskilled labour, which includes reclamation work, farming, reafforestation, and the cleaning of station areas; and domestic work such as preparing meals in the kitchens and the cleaning of prison premises. Among the industrial workers there were 178 competent artisans, 160 fairly proficient, and 258 learners. Cash revenue amounting to £6,000 was derived from the sale of articles made and charges for work done, in the prison workshops.

A considerable amount of building construction was carried out at various prisons, particularly at Kumasi where new workshops are being erected. Prison labour was also employed on reclaiming the lagoons in the vicinity of Accra and Sekondi.

There was a general improvement in the health of the prisoners. The death-rate was 26·81 per thousand as compared with 23 per thousand in the previous year; but the daily average number on the sick list was 2·48 per cent as compared with 2·67 per cent. There were no epidemics during the year. Each prison is visited regularly by a Government medical officer and at the central prisons there are infirmaries with dispenser-warders in attendance. At Elmina prison special wards are provided for the segregation of prisoners suffering from leprosy and tuberculosis.



The quality and quantity of the rations supplied to prisoners were satisfactory and in accordance with the authorised diet scale. The average cost of a prisoner's food was 2½d a day. With the exception of four small prisons in the Northern Territories, all prisons are now provided with kitchens where the meals are prepared.

An Industrial Home for male juvenile offenders is maintained at Kintampo in Ashanti, under the management and control of the Salvation Army. Only boys under the age of 15 are admitted to this institution and they may be retained there up to the age of 18 years. Nine boys were admitted, and two were discharged, during the year. There were thirty-one boys in the Home on the 31st March, 1939. The responsibility for supervising this institution has recently been transferred to the Education department.

The prison staff is divided into three classes, namely, staff warders, escort warders and trade instructors. Except at Accra, staff warders perform certain clerical work in addition to their normal supervisory duties. They are also placed in charge of local prisons under the supervision of officers of the Political Administration. Escort warders supervise the labour and daily routine, whilst trade instructors control the workshops.

The intellectual standard and the educational attainments of the staff continue to show a marked improvement. Amongst the escort warders there are now many who are capable of performing the more important duties of those employed in the other two branches of the prison service.

## CHAPTER XIV.

## LEGISLATION.

During the year under review thirty-six ordinances were enacted of which twenty-six amended existing ones. The following call for special mention :—

*The Rivers (Amendment) Ordinance* (24 of 1938).—Experience has shown that uncontrolled activity in the river fishing industry is a danger to the sources of supply, and that some measure of control is needed in the interests of the industry. This ordinance empowers the Governor in Council to make regulations for the exercise of such control as may be necessary.

*The Cinematograph Exhibitions (Amendment) Ordinance* (34 of 1938).—This ordinance is to exempt educational films from Customs duty.

*The Revised Edition of the Laws (Annual Supplements) Ordinance* (37 of 1938).—This ordinance makes provision for the publication of annual supplements to the Laws of the Gold Coast in lieu of the issue of annual volumes of the Laws as heretofore.

*The Local Forces Ordinance* (4 of 1939).—This ordinance, which replaces the previous Local Forces Ordinance (Cap. 46), provides for the organisation and government of the local Volunteer Forces and *inter alia* renders Africans eligible for commissioned and cadet rank.

*The Public Officers (Liabilities) Ordinance* (5 of 1939).—Owing to the security of tenure in their posts enjoyed by civil servants it is a common practice of moneylenders in this country to insist upon borrowers being secured by a Government official before loans are granted. As a result, pressure is continually being brought to bear upon clerks and other subordinate officials to stand surety for their relatives, which pressure, owing to the strength of family ties in the Gold Coast, is very difficult to resist. Arrests of public officers on account of debt are consequently of such frequent occurrence as seriously to impair the efficiency of the public service, and it is considered that the only really effective remedy is to provide, as this ordinance does, that loans incurred by junior civil servants shall not in future be recoverable.

*The Courts (Amendment) Ordinance* (6 of 1939) provides that no person shall in future be appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court unless he is an advocate of five years' standing. It also empowers magistrates to deal with the less serious cases of uttering counterfeit coin and enables the Chief Commissioner's Court, Ashanti, to reserve a point of law for the opinion of the Supreme Court. The Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court is made a member of the Rules Committee.



*The Criminal Code (Amendment) Ordinance (7 of 1939).*—This ordinance, *inter alia*, assimilates the law of the Gold Coast relating to infanticide to that of the United Kingdom.

*The Town Councils (Amendment) Ordinance (8 of 1939).*—Under the law as it stood nomination of candidates for election to a Town Council need not be handed in until the polling day. It is, however, more convenient and more in accordance with the procedure in force elsewhere, that nomination papers should be delivered a reasonable time before the polling day. The object of section 3 of this ordinance is to provide for this. Hitherto polling could not commence before 8 a.m. or continue after 4 p.m. The purpose of section 5 is to enable a Town Council to vary those hours and if necessary extend them, where such a course would facilitate voters. Section 6 is designed to provide a method whereby the owner of a house or land can safeguard himself against the risk of having his property sold owing to default in the payment of rates by his tenant or other occupier of the premises. The section provides that, if an owner supplies the Town Clerk with his name and postal address, no steps to sell the property will be taken until a month after receipt by the owner of a notification from the Town Clerk. The owner will thus be enabled to save his property by paying the outstanding rate. He will in such event by virtue of section 45 be entitled to recover the amount of same from the defaulting occupier. It has been represented to Government that, in order to ensure that sales do not take place without the knowledge of the owner or occupier, it would assist if sales were held at or near the premises. The object of section 7 is to provide for this. The object of sections 8–10 is to clarify the legal position in respect of the service of notices. They are based upon section 59 of the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925 (United Kingdom).

*The Royal West African Frontier Force (Amendment) Ordinance (9 of 1939).*—The main object of this ordinance is to enable non-combatant ranks of the Gold Coast Regiment to be enlisted and so made liable to proceed on active service, a liability which did not exist under the previous law. It need hardly be said that, in view of the increasing mechanisation of the Army, the absence of this provision might have serious consequences in war time.

*The Achimota College and School (Amendment) Ordinance (13 of 1939)* facilitates the transfer of members of the staff of Achimota College to appointments under Colonial Governments and *vice versa*. In effect it provides that the pension position of such persons shall be the same as in the case of the transfer of officers between Colonial Governments.

*The Native Administration Treasuries Ordinance (16 of 1939).* The object of this ordinance is to make better provision for the establishment and management of Native Administration

treasuries. The ordinance provides an opportunity for the development of native administration in the Gold Coast on lines which have proved successful elsewhere. Treasuries may be established for a State (or part thereof) or a Division and will be managed by Finance Boards appointed by the native authority concerned. Taxation may, with the approval of the Governor, be imposed on natives ordinarily resident in or owning property in the State or Division, and a wide latitude is allowed as to the method of assessment in order that it may be as far as possible in consonance with the native law and custom of the particular State. The reception given to the ordinance indicates that public opinion is alive to the necessity of placing the finances of native authorities upon a proper basis and the regulation-making power vested in the Governor in Council is designed to ensure this.

*The Children (Care and Reformation) (Amendment) Ordinance* (17 of 1939) gives effect to the modern view that industrial schools or reformatories should be regarded as educational rather than penal units, and that such institutions should be dissociated from prison organisations. The ordinance accordingly relieves the Director of Prisons of his functions under the Principal Ordinance and substitutes the Director of Education, Administrative Officers and Medical Officers.

*The Pawnbrokers Ordinance* (18 of 1939).—Although the practice of pawning articles is of long standing in the Gold Coast it is only within recent times that pawnbroking has developed into a regular business. There are, however, nowadays a large number of persons who (usually in conjunction with some other avocation) are engaged in the business of lending money to the public upon the security of articles deposited with them as pledges. This business has received a great stimulus owing to the rise in the price of gold, and it is considered that the time has arrived when it should be regulated by law. The present ordinance, which is in the main based upon the Pawnbrokers Act, 1872 (United Kingdom), does this.

*The Concessions Ordinance* (19 of 1939).—This ordinance provides for a single ordinance, applicable to the Colony and Ashanti, to replace the present Colony Concessions Ordinance (No. 14 of 1900) and the Ashanti Concessions Ordinance (No. 3 of 1903). The last-mentioned ordinances were very similar, and indeed for the most part identical in terms. They have been in operation since the beginning of the present century, and have generally speaking been found to suit local requirements. Their main features have accordingly been reproduced in the present ordinance. Practical experience of the working of the existing system has, however, led to a number of changes, mostly of procedure, which it is believed will prove beneficial to all concerned. Of these, the following may be mentioned,



Section 3 provides that grants of rights in land, etc., by a "native" to a "non-native" shall be void unless made in writing.

Section 8 provides that a concession becomes void unless within two months of the date thereof notice of the concession is filed in Court. Formerly six months were allowed. The time may, however, be enlarged under the proviso to section 8.

Section 11 provides for the maintenance in Ashanti of the procedure, whereby concessions may not be granted by a chief without reference to an administrative officer. This provision is not intended to apply to the Colony where such procedure does not at present obtain.

Section 13 introduces innovations of some importance, which are designed to avoid undue delay in the validation of concessions. Under this section time limits are fixed within which notice of opposition to a concession may be entered in an enquiry. It is provided that a time limit of six months shall apply to non-natives, and shall run from the date of publication of notice of the concession in the *Gazette*. In all cases where boundaries are cut under a survey order by the Court, a person whose interests are affected by the cutting of a boundary must enter notice of opposition within two months of such cutting.

Section 21 (2). The aggregate area of concessions, other than mining concessions, which may be held by one person or company is reduced from 40 to 20 square miles. The Governor may, however, authorise aggregate holdings in excess of 20 square miles, subject to the observance of conditions. These changes are made in view of possible future developments in the timber industry, which may over a period of years call for a variation of control.

Section 26 provides that the mining rent in respect of a mining concession shall become payable after three years from the date of the certificate of validity, but enables the Governor in Council to exempt any particular concession from the operation of this section. It is anticipated that this provision will discourage persons from obtaining concessions for speculative purposes, without taking adequate action for their exploitation within a reasonable period. In certain cases, however, delay in the development of a particular mining concession may be justifiable, and it is considered desirable that provision should be made for such an eventuality.

By section 31 security of title under a certificate of validity is strengthened by rendering such a certificate unassailable on any ground save that of fraud.

## CHAPTER XV.

## BANKING, CURRENCY AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

## Banking.

The Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) both have branches at Accra, Dunkwa, Koforidua, Kumasi, Sekondi, Takoradi, Tarkwa and Winneba. In addition, the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, has branches at Cape Coast, Keta and Oda and an agency at Obuasi, and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) has an agency at Bogosu.

There are Post Office Savings Bank facilities at 75 post offices.

There are no agricultural or co-operative banks; but there are 407 agricultural co-operative societies run under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture, with a total membership of 10,824 and a paid-up share capital of £30,829 1s. 8d. Three hundred and seventy-one cocoa-producers' societies during the year sold 9,405 tons of cocoa, all lots being of a high purity and commanding a small price premium.

## Currency.

The following currency notes and coins are legal tender in the Gold Coast :—

West African £1 and 10s. currency notes.

West African alloy coins of the new type introduced in January, 1939 : 2s., 1s. and 6d.

West African alloy coins of the old type : 2s., 1s., 6d. and 3d.

Nickel bronze threepenny (1939), penny, half-penny and tenth-of-a-penny pieces.

Some West African silver coins are in circulation, but they are gradually being withdrawn.

The estimated amount of nickel-bronze coin in circulation on the 31st March, 1939, was £117,000 and of alloy coin £3,594,000. The amount of West African silver coinage in circulation cannot be ascertained with any degree of accuracy, but the amount is small. West African Currency Board notes to the value of approximately £1,802,506 were in circulation.

The florin, shilling and sixpenny pieces of the new type are of similar appearance to the old coins but are composed of an improved alloy mixture and have a special indented edge; the new threepenny piece is composed of similar metal to the West African penny and is considerably larger than the old alloy coin.



**Weights and Measures.**

British standard weights are used. The inspection of weights and measures was, as in previous years, carried out by superior Police Officers who are qualified Inspectors of Weights and Measures. Four hundred and eighty-three weighing machines were inspected and stamped and forty-nine were rejected. Five hundred and seventy-nine weights were inspected and stamped and twenty were rejected. One hundred and ten measures were tested and stamped and three were rejected. There were nine prosecutions during the year for offences in this connection. The total revenue collected amounted to £200 9s. 3d., including £58 10s. in respect of fines.

CHAPTER XVI.  
PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.  
Revenue and Expenditure.

The net revenue and expenditure of the Gold Coast for the past six years are given below :—

			<i>Revenue.</i> £	<i>Expenditure.</i> £
1933-34	...	...	2,684,925 (a)	2,313,096
1934-35	...	...	2,778,055 (a)	2,554,039 (b)
1935-36	...	...	3,268,378	3,128,606 (c)
1936-37	...	...	3,774,746	3,916,992 (d)
1937-38	...	...	3,791,673	3,636,569 (e)
1938-39	...	...	3,780,288	3,489,346 (f)

The following table shows the receipts during the last six years under the main heads of revenue :—

<i>Head.</i>				1933-34. £	1934-35. £	1935-36. £
Customs	...	...	...	1,823,465	1,906,080	2,434,752
Licences	...	...	...	180,638	267,108	256,331
Fees	...	...	...	192,513	187,081	197,296
Posts and Telegraphs	...	...	...	91,427	98,415	100,687
Sundry and Extraordinary	...	...	...	396,882	319,371	279,312
Total	...	...	...	2,684,925	2,778,055	3,268,378

<i>Head.</i>				1936-37. £	1937-38. £	1938-39. £
Customs	...	...	...	2,955,699	2,792,028	2,694,959
Licences	...	...	...	254,822	339,646	308,628
Fees	...	...	...	225,897	244,775	300,853
Posts and Telegraphs	...	...	...	109,108	135,016	133,331
Sundry and Extraordinary	...	...	...	229,220	280,208	342,517
Total	...	...	...	3,774,746	3,791,673	3,780,288

(a) Includes £60,003 levy on salaries in 1933-34, £15,709 in 1934-35.

(b) Includes £98,524 transferred to the Reserve Fund.

(c) Includes £66,539 paid in full settlement of Colonial Development Fund Loans, transfers of £100,000 to Reserve Fund, £453,720 to Sinking Fund (Supplementary) Reserve and £125,000 special contribution to Railway Renewals Fund.

(d) Includes £796,280 transferred to Sinking Fund (Supplementary) Reserve and £230,147 contribution to Railway Renewals Fund.

(e) Includes £275,000 transferred to Sinking Fund (Supplementary) Reserve ; £186,311 in respect of Railway (£122,681), Public Works Department (£49,681) and Posts and Telegraphs (£13,949) Unallocated Stores ; and £43,217 in respect of Local Loans.

(f) Includes £100,000 transferred to Sinking Fund (Supplementary) Reserve.



The working of the year 1938-39 may be summarised as under :—

<i>Revenue</i> ... ..	£3,780,288
<i>Expenditure (general budget) :—</i>	
Recurrent ... ..	£2,840,232
Extraordinary ... ..	649,114
	<hr/>
	3,489,346
	<hr/>
Surplus ... ..	£290,942
	<hr/>
<i>Railway.</i>	
	1937-38.    1938-39.
Revenue ... ..	£940,714   £1,191,150
Expenditure ... ..	925,598    1,168,139
	<hr/>
Surplus (transferred to Colony Revenue)	£15,116    £23,011
	<hr/>
<i>Takoradi Harbour.</i>	
	1937-38.    1938-39.
Revenue ... ..	£226,158   £212,063
Expenditure ... ..	221,190    211,789
	<hr/>
Surplus (transferred to Takoradi Harbour Renewals Fund)	£4,968    £274
	<hr/>

The general reserves of the Colony on the 31st March, 1939, amounted to £5,407,117 as under :—

General Revenue balance account	... ..	£1,143,553
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund (surplus assets thereof) ... ..	... ..	11,864
General Reserve Fund	... ..	1,500,000
Railway Renewals Fund	... ..	1,034,632
Takoradi Harbour Renewals Fund	... ..	92,068
Sinking Fund (Supplementary Reserve)	... ..	1,625,000
		<hr/>
		£5,407,117
		<hr/>

**Assets and Liabilities.**

The Colony's assets at the 31st March, 1939, were as follows :—

Cash balance	...	...	...	£155,092
Joint Colonial Fund	...	...	...	1,098,000
General advance accounts	...	...	...	75,597
Investments	...	...	...	4,588,206
				<hr/> £5,916,895

and these assets may be said to be earmarked against the following liabilities :—

General deposit accounts	...	...	...	£127,064
Loan account (unexpended balance)				4,785
Special funds	...	...	...	389,793
Renewals funds	...	...	...	1,126,700
Reserve funds	...	...	...	3,125,000
				<hr/> 4,773,342

Leaving balance of General Revenue account of £1,143,553

**Public Debt.**

The public debt of the Colony on the 31st March, 1939, was £11,435,000 and the statutory sinking funds for the redemption of debt amounted to £1,740,785.

**Taxation.**

There is no direct taxation. The main heads of indirect taxation and the revenue from them during 1938–39 are indicated below :—

Customs duties	...	...	...	...	£2,694,959
Harbour and light dues	...	...	...	...	40,347
Licences, etc.	...	...	...	...	308,628

Customs duties represent 71·3 per cent of the total revenue for the year.



CHAPTER XVII.  
MISCELLANEOUS.  
Geological Survey.

Extensive field work was carried out by the geological section during the year. This included the completion of the detailed geological mapping of the country around the Tarkwa gold mines and the Nsuta manganese mine; detailed geological surveys of the underground workings of eight of the Tarkwa gold mines; detailed geological mapping and prospecting of the area around and including the Konongo gold belt; geological mapping and prospecting of the Bibiani gold belt from the Anglo-French frontier at Siwum to a point beyond Bibiani; investigations of the alluvial workings of the Birim and Bonsa diamondfields; examination of the manganese-ore deposits near Dixcove and Axim and the oil occurrences near Half Assini; mapping and prospecting of the coastline between Axim and Senya Beraku, west of Winneba; and surface and underground examinations of many of the active gold mines and prospects.

*Gold.*

The detailed geological mapping of the Tarkwa goldfield on a scale of 1 : 25,000 was practically completed. It is hoped that the map will be printed by the end of 1939, and that the report will be printed in 1940.

The detailed structure and stratigraphy of the Tarkwa goldfield are now clear and it is possible to forecast with a fairly close degree of accuracy the depth at which the gold-bearing conglomerates will be found under the large part of the goldfield where these conglomerates are covered up by younger formations to depths as great as 5,000 feet.

The extensive diamond drilling programmes initiated by some of the mining companies were helped by the work of the Geological Survey. The cores of all the holes exceeding 400 feet in depth were logged and assistance was given to the companies in determining the geological formations passed through in drilling and in the elucidation of structural problems.

The mapping and prospecting of the Konongo area, although still incomplete, indicates that the economic mineral potentialities of the area, except in the Konongo gold belt itself, are not promising.

The mapping and prospecting of the Bibiani gold belt have not yet resulted in the discovery of new gold deposits of economic importance, but this work has defined fairly closely the limits of the zone through which the principal gold channel passes and therefore will be of assistance to mining companies who may prospect the belt in detail.

*Manganese.*

The field investigation of the Nsuta manganese-ore deposits has been completed and the final report, together with maps and plans, will soon be ready for publication.

The Dixcove and Salman manganese-ore deposits, which are situated within twelve miles of the coast, contain a moderate quantity of medium to low grade ore of commercial quality, as well as a very large quantity of low grade ore of no present economic value. It is unlikely that the deposits could be worked profitably at present except on a small scale, but in an emergency they might prove to be of importance, particularly if the price of manganese ore was increased and buyers were not so particular about quality as they are now.

*Diamonds.*

The production of diamonds by Africans in the Bonga diamond-field increased considerably during the year, the declared sales being approximately 41,000 carats compared with 16,000 carats in the previous year. The output, however, is likely to fall off in a year or two as much of the ground in the Dompim Chiefdom has been practically worked out and old ground is being reworked. New diggings have recently been opened up in the Simpa Chiefdom.

The African method of working the deposits is inefficient and wasteful, but the workers are reluctant to change their customary methods for more scientific ones. One African, however, has installed a portable diamond washing plant.

*Water supply.*

The work of the Water Supply Section in providing small village supplies in the Northern Territories was continued throughout the year, mainly in Eastern and Western Dagomba. Some work was also done in this connection in the Gonja and Mamprussi (Gambaga) districts.

The following is a list of the works completed or under construction at the end of the year :—

	Dams.	Ponds.	Bilisi*	Wells.	Tubewells.	Total.
Completed ... ..	3	11	12	14	3	43
Under construction	7	4	5	17	Nil	33

\*“ Bilisi ” is the plural of “ biliga.” The latter is the native term for a storage well.

**Lands Department.**

Primarily, the ownership of land in the Gold Coast is vested in the “ Stool ” or tribal unit. In the course of time family and



individual ownership has been evolved, principally in the coastal belt. With the advent of English conveyancing principles the growth of private or individual ownership has rapidly increased.

Formerly, the Stool did not alienate stool land to its subjects or to foreigners but permitted solely usufructuary rights conferring only a very limited title to the land. Apart from commercial or mining purposes, the individual has been interested in obtaining land only for cocoa farming purposes. With the great advance of cocoa farming and the large profits to be derived therefrom when "boom" prices prevail, the farmer has become extremely "land-conscious" and it is now becoming the rule rather than the exception for him to obtain his farm by way of absolute grant properly evidenced by a written instrument.

Land in the Gold Coast is exploited by non-natives mainly for mining purposes and this exploitation is statutorily controlled by the Concessions Ordinance in the Colony and Ashanti. Grants of land by the native owners for mining purposes or of timber and rubber rights may not exceed a statutory maximum area and may only be by lease for a term not exceeding 99 years. Grants of land within a town or village for residential and commercial purposes are excepted from the operation of the Concessions Ordinance.

The Concessions Ordinance has recently been revised so as to bring it into line with the changing conditions of the present day and to cure the defects which, with the rapid expansion of gold mining within the Gold Coast in recent years, had become more apparent. Previously separate legislation had been enacted for the Colony and Ashanti respectively. The new ordinance will be equally applicable to both.

In the Northern Territories and in the northern section of Togoland under British Mandate, the development of the mineral resources is controlled by the Minerals Ordinance and the alienation of land to non-natives is governed by the Land and Native Rights Ordinance. By the Minerals Ordinance, the property in all minerals within the Protectorate is vested in the Governor. By the Land and Native Rights Ordinance all native lands also are vested in the Governor but so that they may be administered and disposed of for the common benefit of the natives.

An endeavour by one of the larger mining companies with the support of the Government to prospect and develop the mineral resources of the Northern Territories proved unsuccessful and at the present time only two or three mines are being worked on a very small scale. It is possible, however, that the mineral resources of the Protectorate have not yet been sufficiently explored and that more extensive prospecting would disclose further mineral wealth.

For the provision of lands for public purposes the Government is empowered by the Public Lands Ordinance compulsorily to acquire land, subject, however, to the payment of compensation which in the event of dispute is determined by the Supreme Court. Whilst it is necessary, in the interest of the public welfare, health and amenities of the people, continuously to acquire sites for sanitary areas, hospitals, police stations, public buildings and such other public purposes, the total area so compulsorily acquired and owned is extremely small as may be seen from the following table :—

			<i>Total area.</i> <i>sq. miles.</i>	<i>Crown land.</i> <i>sq. miles.</i>
Gold Coast Colony	...	...	23,937	56
Ashanti	...	...	24,379	81
Northern Territories	...	...	30,486	43
Togoland under British Mandate			13,041	6
Total	...	...	<u>91,843</u>	<u>186</u>

The Lands department exists primarily to negotiate, control and record the transactions of the Government with respect to land. Its headquarters are at Accra and there are branch offices at Kumasi and Sekondi. There are four main Crown estates of considerable area at Kumasi, Tamale, Takoradi and Sekondi. Plots within these estates are granted only on leases and at economic rents. The leasing and collection of rents is, with the exception of Tamale, under the control of the department which also conducts and records all transactions by the Government respecting land. These include the compulsory acquisition of land for public purposes, conveyances, exchanges, purchases and leases of Crown land or land required by the Government. A concession register is also maintained principally for official purposes. Searches in the departmental concession records may, however, be made by the interested public on payment of a small fee for each search.

A Land Registry exists for the registration of deeds in the Colony and Ashanti but registration of title has not yet been introduced. In the Crown estate of Kumasi what is virtually a compulsory system of registration of title has been established by agreement which can be regarded as a pattern in the event of registration of title being adopted in the Gold Coast.

### Survey Department.

The Survey department is divided into four main sections, namely, topographical, cadastral, framework and reproduction.

The topographical section has been employed on the survey of the Tarkwa–Prestea area on the 1/62,500 scale. One thousand square miles were surveyed during the year.



The cadastral section has been engaged mainly on surveys for layouts of towns and villages, particularly of congested areas in the mining villages. These surveys consist of contoured plans of the areas and subsequent demarcation of the approved layouts. Many surveys were also carried out for the acquisition of sites for public works and new roads. Town surveys were made at Koforidua, Mangoase, Akwatia, Asamankese, Elmina and Shama.

The framework section completed work on a primary traverse in the Western Province and on 180 miles of primary traverses in the Northern Territories.

The reproduction section has been engaged in the drawing and printing of topographical maps and town plans for public sale and various maps and diagrams for Government departments. A special large-scale map of the Tarkwa goldfield area was published. In addition 700 maps were printed for the Government of Sierra Leone.

Licensed surveyors have been employed mostly on surveys of concessions and have submitted forty-five such surveys to the department for examination.

At the Survey School courses of instruction were held for eighteen survey pupils and twenty learners from the Forestry department. A short course in compass surveying was given to four agricultural pupils from Liberia.

## APPENDIX.

The following publications of local interest may be obtained (post free) from the Government Printing Department, Box 124, Accra.

Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the Government Printer, Accra, Gold Coast.

## Agriculture—

	£	s.	d.
Bulletin 32.—Agricultural Co-operative Societies Annual Audit Report 1935–36 ... ..	0	1	0
Bulletin 33.—Report on a Visit to Northern Nigeria to Study Mixed Farming ... ..	0	1	0
Bulletin 34.—Agriculture in North Mamprusi ... ..	0	2	0
Bulletin 35.—Agricultural Co-operative Societies Annual Audit Report, 1936–37 ... ..	0	1	0
Bulletin 36.—The Cocoa Research Station, Tafo (First Annual Report), 1937–38 ... ..	0	1	0
<i>The Gold Coast Farmer</i> —Published monthly. Annual subscription 2s. 6d. single copies, threepence. (Obtainable from the Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 299, Accra.)			

## Census, 1931.

The Gold Coast, 1931 ( <i>Cardinall</i> ) ... ..	0	12	6
A Bibliography of the Gold Coast ( <i>Cardinall</i> ) ... ..	0	12	6
Appendices containing Comparative Returns and General Statistics of the 1931 Census ... ..	0	12	6
The above three volumes, per set ... ..	1	5	0

## Customs—

Customs Tariff Ordinance, Cap. 133 (1936) ... ..	0	2	6
Customs Import and Export Lists, 1930 edition ... ..	0	2	0
Customs Tariff and Custom House Guide (1929) ... ..	0	1	0
Trade Report, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937 ... ..	0	7	6

## Departmental Annual Reports—

Accountant-General, Agriculture, Animal Health, Audit, Education, Forestry, Geological Survey, Medical, Mines, Police, Prisons, Railway, Survey, Vital Statistics. Price according to size, from 1s. upwards.

## Forestry—

Forest Officers' Handbook of the Gold Coast ( <i>Chipp</i> ) ... ..	0	2	6
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## Geology—

Annual Reports from 1913. Copies for only the following years are now available: 1930–31, 1933–34, 1934–35, 1935–36, 1936–37 and 1937–38 ... ..	0	2	0
Report on the Geology of Western Togoland ( <i>Robertson</i> ) 1921 ... ..	0	5	0
Bulletin No. 1.—Outlines of the Mineral and Water Power Resources of the Gold Coast with Hints on Prospecting ( <i>Kitson</i> ) 1925 ... ..	0	1	0
Bulletin No. 2.—Geological Map of the Gold Coast and Western Togoland with brief descriptive notes thereon ( <i>Sir Albert Kitson, C.M.G., F.G.S., M.I.M.M.</i> ) 1928... ..	0	2	6
Bulletin No. 3.—Report on Rapid Geological Survey of Gambia ( <i>Cooper</i> ) 1927... ..	0	3	0
Bulletin No. 4.—Microscopical Features and Chemical Analyses of Gold Coast Igneous Rocks ( <i>Junner</i> ) 1928 ... ..	0	3	0
Bulletin No. 5.—References to Occurrences of Economic Minerals in the Gold Coast, recorded in Annual Reports ( <i>Kitson and Felton</i> ) 1930 ... ..	0	1	0



**Geology—contd.**

	£	s.	d.
Bulletin No. 6.—Minerals of Concentrates from Stream-Gravels, Soils, and Crushed Rocks of the Gold Coast ( <i>Kitson and Felton</i> ) 1930	0	1	0
Bulletin No. 7.—The Bauxite Deposits of the Gold Coast ( <i>Cooper</i> ) 1936	0	3	0
Bulletin No. 8.—The Geology of the Bosumtwi Caldera and Surrounding Country and Results of a Hydrographic Survey of Lake Bosumtwi ( <i>Junner, McGregor and White</i> ) 1937 ... ..	0	3	0
Bulletin No. 9.—A Bibliography of Gold Coast Geology, Mining and Archæology to March, 1937 ( <i>W. T. James</i> ) ... ..	0	2	0
Memoir No. 1.—Geological and Mining Features of the Tarkwa-Abosso Goldfield ( <i>Whitelaw</i> ) 1929 ... ..	0	5	0
Memoir No. 3.—The Geology of the Prestea Gold Felt ( <i>Cooper</i> ) 1934	0	5	0
Memoir No. 4.—Gold in the Gold Coast ( <i>Junner</i> ) 1935 ... ..	0	3	0

**History—**

A Brief Review of the History and Social Organisation of the Peoples of the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast ( <i>Eyre-Smith</i> ) ...	0	1	0
Adangbe Historical and Proverbial Songs ( <i>Enoch Azu</i> ) ... ..	0	1	0
Enquiry into the Constitution and Organisation of the Dagbon Kingdom ... ..	0	2	6
Gold Coast Handbook, 1937 ... ..	0	7	6
Gold Coast Handbook, 1928 ... ..	0	2	0
Journal of the Senior Naval Officer, Bights Sub-Division, H.M. Navy ( <i>Gibbons</i> ) ... ..	0	0	6
Native States of the Gold Coast: History and Constitution—AHANTA ( <i>Welman</i> ) ... ..	0	2	6
A Note on the History of the British Courts in the Gold Coast Colony ( <i>Sir Brandford Griffith</i> ) 1936 ... ..	0	1	6
Marriage Law among the Tallensi ( <i>Dr. M. Fortes</i> ) ... ..	0	1	6

**Languages, Text Books—**

A Brief Account of the Brissa Language ( <i>Chamberlain</i> ) ... ..	0	3	0
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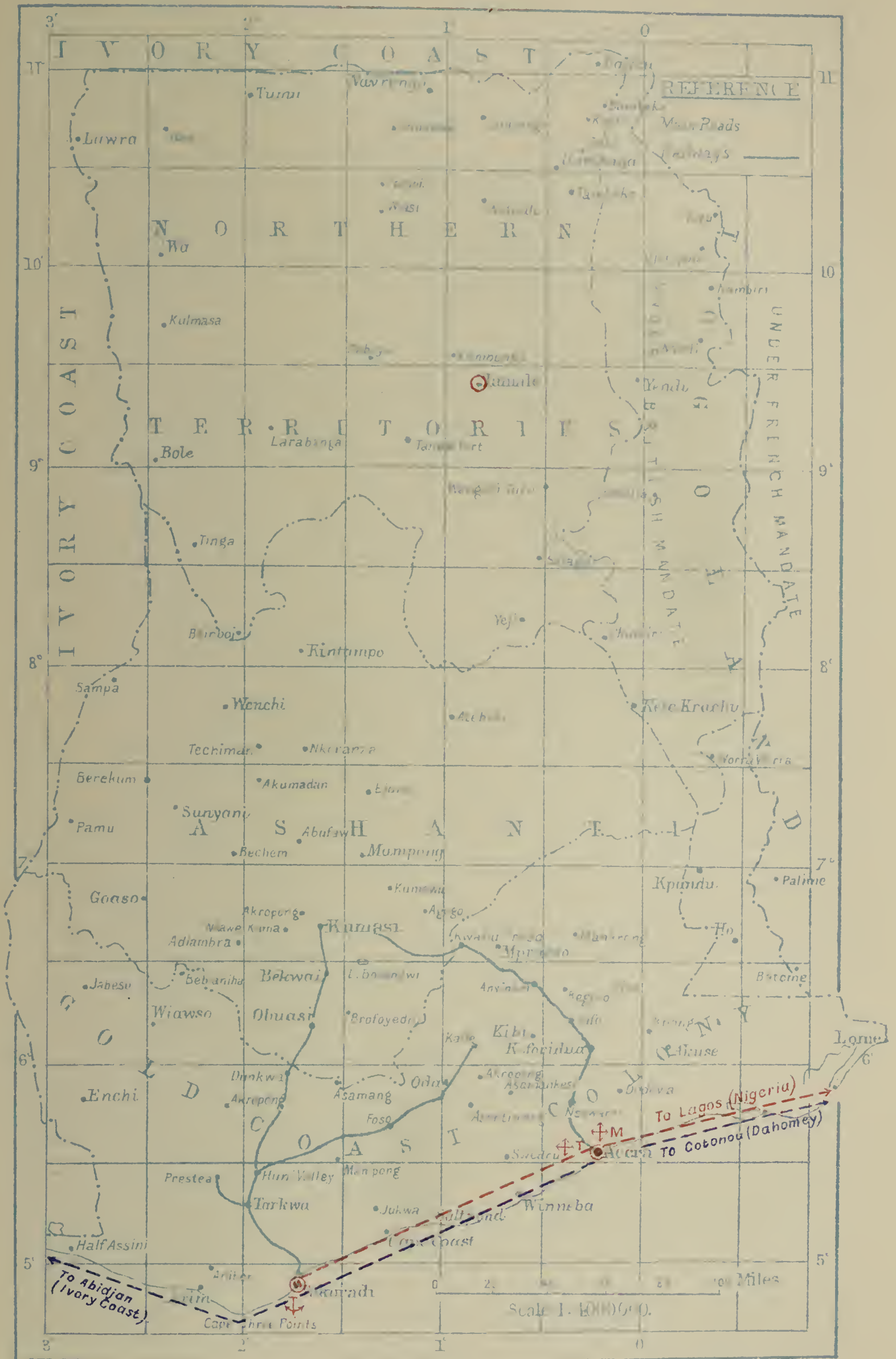
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